FULL 68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES

Sinister TALES

1/-

APPROVED COMIC

No 47

rise ye powers, great and strong! avenge me... for the horrid wrong!

LORD GLENDON WILL FEEL MY ANGER! *HA-HA-HA!*

SEE, MY LORD..! THE OLD ONE IS UP TO VILLAINY!

NONSENSE! THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR! SHE CANNOT HARM ME... **OR CAN SHE?**

WHAT CAUSES THE BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN...? ACCIDENTS, ILLNESS, MISFORTUNES...ARE THEY NATURAL... OR A RESULT OF SOMETHING MORE?

THRILL TO...

"THE OLD LADY'S CURSE"

THE OLD LADY'S CURSE

LONG, LONG TIME AGO, IN SCOTLAND, A CERTAIN LORD GLENDON AND HIS FAMILY LIVED QUIETLY AND PEACEFULLY AMONG THE ROLLING HILLS AND LAKES OF THE COUNTRYSIDE/ BUT GLENDON FELL INTO A DISPUTE WITH A WITCH-LIKE NEIGHBOR WHO THREATENED TO PUT A CURSE ON HIS FAMILY CLAN/ NATURALLY HE SCOFFED AT THIS, BUT THE WOMAN INSISTED THAT SHE COULD PERFORM SUCH A FEAT/ HOWEVER, IT WAS JUST THE RAVINGS OF A CRAZY, OLD SHREW---OR WAS IT?

SINISTER TALES No. 47
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MY LORD, THERE IS AN ANGRY SHREW AT THE DOOR! SHE WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU! SHALL I SEND HER AWAY?
LEAD HER TO ME, DUNCAN!

BEFORE YOUR NOBLE TONGUE CAN SOOTHE ME, I SHALL SPEAK MY ANGER, OH, UNJUST LORD OF GLENDON!
BUT WHY THE ANGER, WOMAN?

THOU HAST CAUSED A WALL TO BE BUILT! THAT WALL INTRUDES ON PROPERTY RIGHTLY BELONGING TO ME!

I AM AFRAID YOU ARE MISTAKEN, GOOD NEIGHBOR! I PERSONALLY DID MARK OFF THE BOUNDARIES OF MY LAND, AS PRESCRIBED BY THE KING!
THE KING DID NOT CONSULT WITH MY ANCESTORS!

FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS, THE BOUNDARIES HAVE BEEN THUS! I WARN THEE, LORD GLENDON, SET BACK THE BARRIER TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE, OR GREAT HARM WILL BEFALL THIS HOUSE!
YOU DARE THREATEN ME!

IF SUCH IS NOT DONE, I SHALL BRING A CURSE DOWN UPON THE HOUSE OF GLENDON! MARK ME WELL!

HA! AWAY WITH HER, DUNCAN! I WOULD SETTLE THIS MATTER AMICABLY, BUT NOT IN THE FACE OF SUCH THREATS!

MY HUSBAND, I AM FEARFUL OF THOSE EVIL THREATS! WE HAVE THE CHILDREN TO THINK OF!
FEAR NOT, MY DEAR! THE IDLE CHATTER OF A DULL-WITTED WOMAN CARRIES NO WEIGHT WITH ME!

BUT THE OLD WOMAN DID NOT CONSIDER HER THREAT SO MEANINGLESS...
DEPARTED ANCESTORS OF THIS HUMBLE, TORMENTED DAUGHTER... HEAR MY PLEA AND GRANT ME A SIGN OF THAT WHICH I MUST DO...

I CAST UPON THIS WATER THE SECRET POTION WHICH IS SAID TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS! THE WATER SHALL GIVE FORTH KNOWLEDGE...

AH! TRULY THE ANSWER DOTH COME! IT IS THE WATER THAT SHALL SERVE AS MY WAY TO SATISFACTION AGAINST THE LORD GLENDON!

I SHALL AWAIT THE UNJUST NOBLEMAN! EACH MORNING HE DOTH COME TO THE LAKE FOR HIS BOATING PLEASURE...AND THIS MORNING SHALL BE HIS LAST! HA!

THE NEXT MORNING THE LORD VISITED THE LAKE FOR HIS DAILY EXERCISE...
OLD WOMAN, WHAT BRINGS THEE HERE TO MY LAKE? AND SO EARLY ON THIS MORN...

I HAVE COME TO SEE YOU SET UPON THE LAKE, MY LORD...YOUR SPORT IS MY PLEASURE!
I TRUST YOU NOT, OLD WOMAN! BUT NEITHER DO I FEAR YOU! WATCH IF YOU WILL, BUT NOTHING UNUSUAL SHALL OCCUR! I ASSURE YOU!

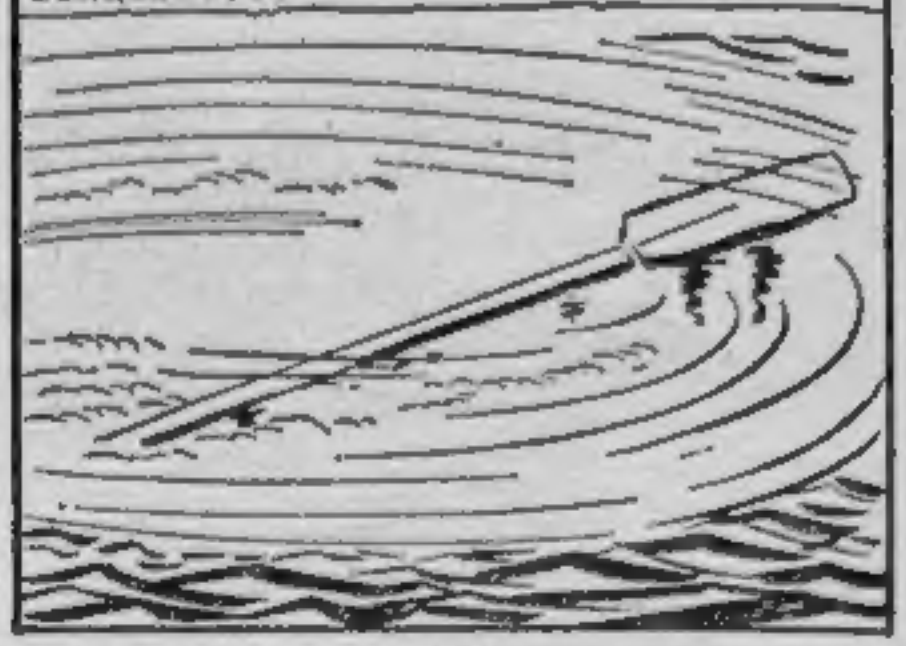
BREW YOUR WITCHY BREW, OLD WRETCH! BUT BE PREPARED FOR GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT! NOTHING SHALL BEFALL ME!
WE SHALL SEE, MY LORD! WE SHALL SEE...

POWER OF MY ANCESTORS, TAKE HOLD AND PUNISH THIS MAN!

SPREW YOUR VENOMOUS CURSES, OLD WOMAN! THE LAKE IS MY FRIEND!
AND SHE SHALL TAKE YOU TO HER HEART, MY LORD! HA!!
MY LORD! TURN BACK! THE LAKE DOTH ACT STRANGELY! TURN BACK!

BUT THE STRANGE, SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION OF THE WATER REACHED OUT AND CAPTURED LORD GLENDON'S TINY VESSEL IN ITS CLUTCHES/ FOR HIM THERE WAS NO ESCAPE FROM THIS FANTASTIC HAPPENING...

AND VERY QUICKLY THE NOBLEMAN'S FATE WAS SEALED BENEATH THE ENDLESS SPIRAL OF WATER, WHICH SOON SUBSIDED, LEAVING IN ITS WAKE THE EVIDENCE OF THE WICKED OLD WOMAN'S CONQUEST...



THE GRIEF-STRICKEN LADY GLENDON ORDERED THAT THE WITCH BE IMPRISONED, BUT THE OLD WOMAN ACCEPTED HER FATE WITHOUT REMORSE/

THE WITCH'S CURSE FRIGHTENED THE GRIEVING LADY GLENDON/ TO PROTECT HER CHILDREN, SHE ORDERED THAT THE LAKE BE FILLED IN UNTIL IT WAS ABSORBED BY THE SOIL...

SO DEEPLY WAS SHE TOUCHED BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS THAT SHE UTTERED A FAMILY PROCLAMATION...

BUT THE PASSING OF YEARS HAS A WAY OF LESSENING THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY/ SO IT WAS WITH THE LEGEND OF THE GLENDON CURSE, THOUGH THE FAMILY SURVIVED INTO NEW CENTURIES...

THE OLDER GLENDONS STILL ABIDED BY LADY GLENDON'S ANCIENT DECREE/ HOWEVER, YOUNG JOHN WAS DIFFERENT...
MOTHER, I'VE BEEN ACCEPTED AS SHIP'S STEWARD/

BUT JOHN, YOU MUST NOT GO AGAINST THE GLENDON FAMILY CODE/ YOU MUST NOT GO TO SEA/
NOW MOTHER, THAT WAS HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO/ YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE ALL THAT, DO YOU?

PERHAPS IT IS ONLY SUPERSTITION/ BUT WHY TEMPT FATE?
ALL MY LIFE I'VE WANTED TO BE A SAILOR/ NOW THE TIME HAS COME/

DON'T WORRY, MOTHER/ I'LL WRITE TO YOU EVERY DAY/
I'M SO AFRAID I'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN...

HAVING LITTLE MONEY FOR PROPER TRANSPORTATION, JOHN JOURNEYED TOWARD THE SEACOAST BY BEGGING RIDES FROM PASSING TRAVELERS...
MY SHIP SAILS TODAY, BUT I MUST GET ONE MORE RIDE IF I'M TO BE THERE ON TIME/ PERHAPS THIS WOMAN/..

THE OLD WOMAN ALLOWED JOHN TO RIDE WITH HER/ AS A MATTER OF CONVERSATION, HE TOLD HER ABOUT THE FAMILY LEGEND...
NATURALLY I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF IT/ AND I HOPE THAT WHEN I RETURN HOME, MY MOTHER WON'T BELIEVE IT ANYMORE EITHER/
A VERY STRANGE STORY, YOUNG MAN...

BUT PERHAPS YOU SCOFF TOO EASILY!
DON'T TELL ME YOU BELIEVE IT, TOO? WELL, NOTHING WILL CHANGE MY MIND!

AFTER A LONG RIDE, JOHN BECAME IMPATIENT...
CAN'T YOU MAKE YOUR DONKEY GO ANY FASTER? I'M AFRAID MY SHIP WILL SAIL WITHOUT ME!
PERHAPS THAT WOULD BE JUST AS WELL...

IT'S MY SHIP! I'M TOO LATE! I'VE LOST MY CHANCE! AND ALL BECAUSE YOUR DONKEY MOVED SO SLOWLY!
ALL IS FOR THE BEST! PERHAPS IT WAS MEANT TO BE SO...

NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! A WHIRLPOOL! IT--IT'S DRAGGING THE SHIP DOWN! OLD WOMAN, TELL ME---YOU KNEW, DIDN'T YOU?

I--!! SHE'S GONE! BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! SHE DIDN'T WANT ME TO BE ON THAT SHIP! AND NOW SHE'S DISAPPEARED!

JOHN WAS SO STRUCK BY WHAT HAD HAPPENED THAT HE RETURNED HOME, NEVER TO LEAVE AGAIN...BUT ALWAYS TO WONDER...
PERHAPS SHE WANTED TO MAKE UP FOR THE WRONG-DOING OF HER ANCESTOR! BUT WE'LL NEVER KNOW, WILL WE...?
END

Strange Fate OF HEINRICH KLAUS!

THE CAPTAIN HIMSELF SEIZED THE PERISCOPE, PREPARED TO ISSUE COMMANDS...

AN AMERICAN RED CROSS VESSEL...THE BELLEPONT! TORPEDOES 1 AND 3...GET READY!

BUT CAPTAIN... WE CAN'T FIRE AT A HOSPITAL SHIP!

WHAT! YOU DARE QUESTION MY ORDERS? WHAT DO I CARE IF IT IS CARRYING WOUNDED SOLDIERS? THEY ARE OUR ENEMIES...ENEMIES OF HITLER!

IT...IT IS AGAINST THE RULES OF WAR!

RULES OF WAR ...HA! WHAT COUNTS IS VICTORY! FIRE!

THE MERCY SHIP BELLEPONT SUFFERED A DIRECT HIT...

BOOOOM!

PERFECT! NOW WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT THERE ARE NO SURVIVORS!... PREPARE TO SURFACE!

NO SURVIVORS? CAPTAIN, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE JUNIOR OFFICER FOUND OUT SOON ENOUGH WHAT HAS MEANT...

YOU—YOU CAN'T DO THIS, SIR! YOU'RE MAKING US ALL CRIMINALS!

I AM MASTER HERE—MY ORDERS ARE TO BE OBEYED! COMMENCE FIRING!

KER-POW!

THE BUSINESS WAS SWIFT...

THERE ARE NONE LEFT, SIR!

GOOD! WELL ...AT LAST WE'VE GOT OUR FIRST KILL!

CAPTAIN KLAUS WAS WELL PLEASED WITH THE DAY'S WORK BUT THE MEN WERE HORRIFIED---
WHAT DOES HE CARE THAT WE HAVE DISGRACED OURSELVES? I AM DEEPLY ASHAMED!
HE'S NOT FIT TO COMMAND!

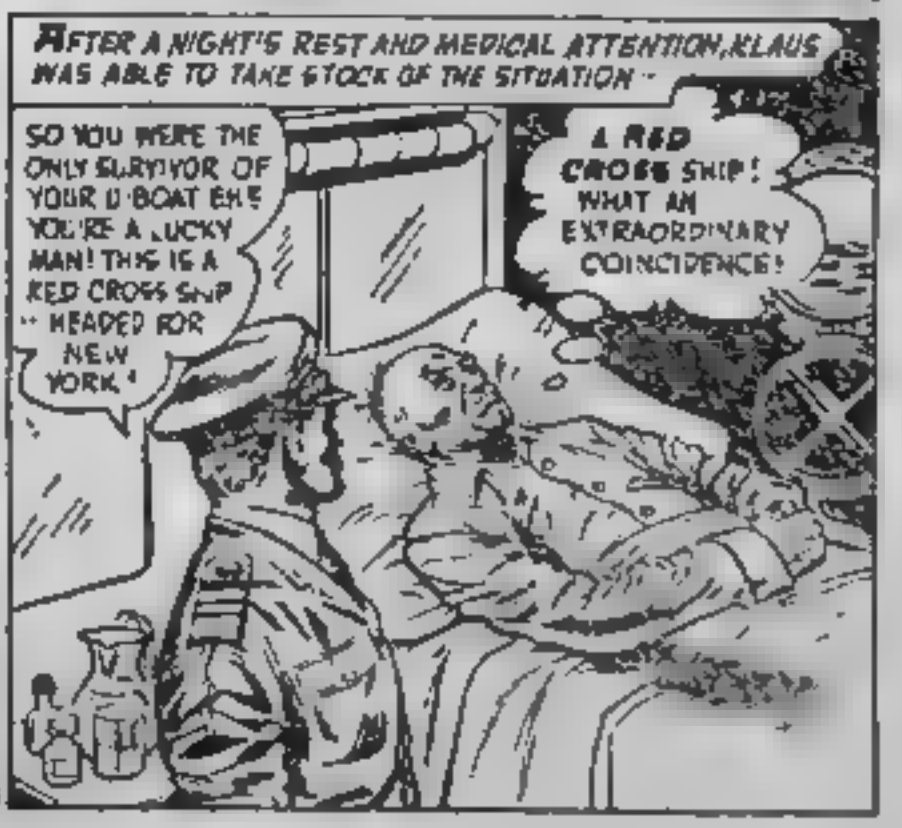
THE GRUMBLING SPREAD LIKE WILD FIRE WITHIN A FEW HOURS
YES! I AGREE WITH YOU! PERHAPS IT IS MUTINY BUT WE DO IT FOR THE SAKE OF HONOR!
LET'S TAKE OVER WITHOUT DELAY LIEUTENANT!

KLAUS WAS SURPRISED IN HIS CABIN AND DEALT WITH QUICKLY
TRAITORS! MUTINEERS! I'LL SEE YOU ALL HANGED FOR THIS!
IF YOU SURVIVE, CAPTAIN! YOU GAVE US NO CHOICE---WE PREFER TO FIGHT THE ENEMY HONORABLY!

THE SUBMARINE SUBMERGED AND KLAUS FOUND HIMSELF ALONE ON A WIDE, WIDE SEA! NIGHT FOLLOWED DAY IN A MEANINGLESS PATTERN---SOON HE LOST TRACK OF TIME--AS THE TWIN TORMENTS OF HUNGER AND COLD BROUGHT ON DELIRIUM---
DONE--FOR! NOTHING ON HORIZON--HELPLESS--
U 37

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER A MOMENT, A DAY OR A WEEK PASSED WHEN FAR ON THE HORIZON--
SMOKE! --A SHIP GOT TO SEE ME--THEY MUST--

IT SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY PASSED BEFORE THE SHIP FINALLY CAME UP ALONGSIDE---
SAVE --ME!
IT'S A U-BOAT CAPTAIN! PICK HIM UP!


AFTER A NIGHT'S REST AND MEDICAL ATTENTION, KLAUS WAS ABLE TO TAKE STOCK OF THE SITUATION--
SO YOU WERE THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF YOUR U-BOAT EH? YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN! THIS IS A RED CROSS SHIP--HEADED FOR NEW YORK!
A RED CROSS SHIP! WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY COINCIDENCE!

NEXT DAY HE WAS ABLE TO STROLL ABOUT THE DECK ··

WHAT RARE GOOD FORTUNE! A RED CROSS SHIP IS SAFE ON THE HIGH SEAS! I'LL LOWER OUT THE WAR IN THE UNITED STATES ··· IN SAFETY!! I ONLY HOPE THAT MY NOISY CREW OF MINE MEETS DISASTER!

KLAUS SMILED AS HE BREATHED DEEPLY AT THE RAIL, LOOKING OVER THE CALM SEAS···

EXTRAORDINARY ··· A WISPY TA SHIP CAUSED MY DOWNFALL AND SAVED MY LIFE! ···HIMMEL···THAT'S THE TRACK OF A TORPEDO!

NEXT MOMENT

DIRECT HIT!

CLEAR THE LIFE-BOATS!

WILD CONFUSION FOLLOWED! THE SHIP LISTED QUICKLY, AND KLAUS TRIED DESPERATELY TO SAVE HIMSELF···

PLEASE! LET ME IN THE LIFEBOAT!

TOO BAD BUT THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM FOR THE WOUNDED! YOU HAVE YOUR NAZI BUDDIES TO THANK FOR THIS ··THERE'S NOTHING LOWER THAN FIRING AT A HOSPITAL SHIP!

FRANTIC WITH FEAR KLAUS LEAPED FROM THE SINKING SHIP STROVE DESPERATELY TO KEEP AFLOAT IN THE ICY WATER! SUDDENLY···

IT'S THE U-BOAT! IT'S SURFACED TO··· NO! NO!

KER-POW!

IT··· IT CAN'T BE! IT'S THE U-327··· MY SHIP!

AS DEADLY GUN FIRE RAKED THE WAVES, KLAUS'S HEAD TURNED TOWARDS THE SINKING RED CROSS SHIP! HE HAD A SPLIT SECOND IN WHICH TO READ THE VESSEL'S NAME···

THE BELLEPONT! BUT THAT'S THE VESSEL I SANK! HOW ··HOW?

HAD FATE FLUNG HIM BACK IN TIME SO THAT HE COULD BE THE VICTIM OF HIS CRIME AS WELL AS ITS PERPETRATOR? OR WAS THIS TO BE HIS FATE ETERNALLY··· TO RELIVE THE SAME CATASTROPHE AGAIN AND AGAIN? BOTH WERE CAPTAIN HEINRICH KLAUS'S THOUGHTS, JUST BEFORE···

THE END!

THE ANT-AGONIZING BOY

LITTLE HOWARD WAS PRETTY MUCH A SPOILED BRAT...HE WOULDN'D OBEY HIS DISTRAUGHT PARENTS, HE BROKE HIS TOYS, HE DIRTIED THE WALLS, SMASHED WINDOWS ...AND, WHEN HIS FATHER GAVE HIM AN UNUSJAL GIFT, AN ANT COLONY IN A PLASTIC CASE, HE DELIGHTED IN TORMENTING THE INDUSTRIOUS LITTLE INSECTS/ HIS MIND WAS CONSTANTLY WORKING, TRYING TO FIND NEW WAYS OF HARASSING THE HARDWORKING CREATURES/ HE NEVER DREAMED THERE MIGHT COME A DAY WHEN THE TABLES WOULD BE TURNED...

LITTLE HOWARD, PRIOR TO THAT, HAD BEEN A PRETTY NASTY CHARACTER/ HE SCREAMED WITH RAGE WITHOUT PROVOCATION...

HIS PARENTS, A GENTLE, LOVING COUPLE, WERE AT THEIR WITS' END/

I KNOW WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO, HONEY/ I'D LIKE TO GIVE HIM A WHIPPING HE'D NEVER FORGET/
NO, ANDREW/ YOU KNOW WHAT IT SAYS IN DR. KROK'S BOOK ABOUT RAISING CHILDREN...

WE'VE GOT TO REASON WITH A BOY HOWARD'S AGE/ HOWARD, DARLING, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? IF YOU WENT OUT TO PLAY IN THE RAIN, YOU'D BECOME ILL ...YOU WOULDN'T LIKE THAT, WOULD YOU?
I DON'T CARE/ I WANTA GO OUT/

MAKE IT STOP RAINING/ IF YOU DON'T, I'LL CRY ALL NIGHT AND MAKE MYSELF SICK/

SO
I'D LIKE TO BELT HIM HARD... JUST ONCE/ IF DR. KROK EVER SAW MY KID, HE WOULDN'T WRITE BOOKS ABOUT CHILDREN/

LATER THAT NIGHT AFTER HOWARD, STILL HEALTHY, WAS TUCKED AWAY IN BED...
I'M SORRY YOU CAUGHT COLD, DARLING, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN LETTING LITTLE HOWARD GET SICK, ISN'T IT?
AH-CHOO/

ANDY JONES WAS PRETTY DESPERATE... HE WAS WANDERING MISERABLY DURING HIS LUNCH HOUR A FEW DAYS LATER WHEN HE SAW...
MAYBE AN ANT COLONY WOULD INTEREST HOWARD?
ANT COLONYS FOR SALE

SO, HOWARD GOT ANOTHER NEW TOY .. AND IT DID CLAIM THE BOY'S ATTENTION/

ANTS? LIKE WE GOT OUT IN THE GARDEN?

THEY'VE BUILT THEIR HOMES INSIDE THIS CASE .. SO YOU CAN WATCH THEM WORKING, BUILDING TUNNELS, CARING FOR THEIR YOUNG, AND SO ON/ THEY'RE VERY INTERESTING/

SEE, SON? THEY WORK HARD AND THEY HAVE A REGULAR SOCIETY/ THE WORKERS ARE VERY STRONG FOR THEIR SIZE/ IT TAKES THEM A LONG TIME TO BUILD THIER UNDERGROUND CITIES...

HOWARD WATCHED THE ANT COLONY WORK ON A ROAD FOR A WHILE...

HEY, THOSE ANTS REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING/ WONDER HOW THEY'D ACT IF I MESSED IT ALL UP ON THEM...?

IT WAS CHILDISH...NOT REALLY MEAN/ HOWARD JUST REACHED INSIDE WITH HIS FINGER AND PLOWED UP THE DRY SOIL WHERE THE ANTS HAD BEEN BUILDING...

WOW/ THEY GOT ALL SHOOK UP THAT TIME/

HE SPENT A LOT OF QUIET HOURS WATCHING THEM...HIS PARENTS WERE DELIGHTED/

HOWIE IN BED ALREADY, DEAR?

OH, NO/ HE'S INSIDE WATCHING HIS ANT COLONY/ HE LOVES IT/

THAT'S GOOD/ MAYBE HE'LL LEARN SOMETHING FROM THEM/

THEY DON'T LIKE BEING WET, I CAN TELL/ I ASKED DAD WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM WHEN IT RAINS ON THE ANTS OUTSIDE AND DAD SAYS WATER DOESN'T BOTHER THEM/ MAYBE THESE ARE DIFFERENT...

HOWARD THOUGHT A LOT OF HIS ANTS... IN FACT, HE WENT TO SLEEP WITH THEM ON HIS MIND...
TOMORROW I'M GOING TO TRY ANOTHER TRICK ON THEM/ SEE IT'S FUN/

AND HE DREAMED/ OF WHAT? ANTS, OF COURSE...

THE ANTS HE DREAMED OF WERE BIGGER THAN THE ONES IN THE GLASS CASE... THEY WERE BIGGER OR HE WAS SMALLER/ MUCH SMALLER/
NO/ NO/ KEEP AWAY FROM ME/

IN HIS DREAMS, THEY HAD HIM...THE TINY INSECTS HE'D TORMENTED SO LONG HELD HIM PRISONER/
BRING HIM TO THE QUEEN, SOLDIER/

THE QUEEN OF THE COLONY...

WHAT IS THIS CREATURE? IS HE AN ENEMY?

IT IS THE BOY WHO TORMENTS US, YOUR HIGHNESS/ HE HAS WRECKED OUR CITIES AND ROADS MANY TIMES/

LET ME GO/ LET ME GO OR I'LL TELL MY DADDY/

HE IS DISOBEDIENT, AND UNMANNERLY/ HIS PUNISHMENT SHALL BE HARD LABOR/ LET HIM REPAIR THE DAMAGE HE HAS DONE/

I WON'T DO IT, YOU CAN'T...YEEE-OOOWW/ PUT ME DOWN, I'LL WORK/

FIRST, IT WAS HIS JOB TO CARRY AWAY THE GREAT BOULDERS THAT OBSTRUCTED THE MAIN SUPPLY ROAD...

WHERE DID ALL THESE ROCKS COME FROM/ I DID'T SEE ANY THIS LARGE/

THAT IS NOT A ROCK, BOY/ IT IS A COMMON GRAIN OF SAND/

THAT OBJECT IS THE STEM OF A WEED...WHICH YOU CARELESSLY CRUSHED, SMASHING ONE OF OUR LARGEST TUNNELS/ DRAG IT AWAY/

HE WAS FORCED TO DO AS MUCH WORK AS THE ANTS BUT HE WASN'T USED TO IT. .

YOU REST? NONE OF US EVER DO...GET UP!

I, I CAN'T! I'M TOO TIRED!

A SOLDIER ANT FIXED THAT WITH A SUDDEN NIP ON THE LEG...

WHAT DID YOU BITE ME FOR?

TO MAKE YOU WORK! YOU MUST OBEY, BOY! IF ANY MEMBER OF THE COLONY DOES NOT WORK, HE IS CAST OUT! YOU ARE OUR PRISONER SO YOU MUST DO AS YOU ARE TOLD!

IN THE LOWER GALLERIES IN THE COLONY, THERE WAS WATER...THE WATER HE HAD POURED IN TO HARASS THE ANTS!

WE DO NOT ENJOY DROWNING IN THE WATER YOU POURED ON US, BOY! KEEP CARRYING WATER UNTIL THE PLACE IS DRY!

WHY IS THIS ROAD SO LONG? WHY DO THE WORKERS RUN SO FAST WITH SUCH HEAVY LOADS?

FOOD IS SCARCE! IF THERE WERE GRAIN OR CORN PLANTS NEAR, WE WE WOULD LIVE BETTER! NOW, BACK TO WORK!

HONARD WORKED LONG AND IT SEEMED AN ETERNITY! HE LEARNED HOW THE SOLDIER ANTS DID CERTAIN THINGS, THE WORKERS HAD THEIR SPECIAL CHORES AND SO ON...

GOLLY ANTS ARE SMART!

THEY SAY THAT ALL THINGS END AND HOWARD'S DREAM DID TOO WHEN MORNING CAME...

HE'S STILL SLEEPING/ HE LOOKS SO TIRED, POOR THING!

HE NEVER SLEPT THIS LATE BEFORE/ HE LOOKS AS THOUGH HE'S BEEN WORKING HARD IN THE DIRT ALL NIGHT/ LOOK AT HIS HANDS...YOU BATHED HIM BEFORE YOU PUT HIM TO BED [redacted]DN'T YOU?

GOOD MORNING, MOMMY/ GOOD MORNING DAD/ I'M GOING TO BE A GOOD BOY TODAY/

AND HE WAS...AND EVERY DAY AFTER THAT/

LOOK AT HIM/ HE HELPS US WITH EVERYTHING NOW/ IT'S AMAZING/ HE'S STRONG, ISN'T HE?

HE SAYS IF ANY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY DOESN'T DO HIS SHARE, HE SHOULD BE KICKED OUT JUST AS ANTS DO/

THE CHORES ARE ALL DONE, DAD/ MAY I GO AND LOOK AT MY ANTS NOW?

OF COURSE, SON, AND THANKS FOR HELPING OUT/

BUT THERE WERE LITTLE MYSTERIES... SUCH AS WHEN HIS MOTHER WENT TO GET HOWARD FOR DINNER A LITTLE LATER...

HOWIE? TIME FOR DINNER? WHERE IS THAT BOY/ HE DOES THIS SO OFTEN LATELY/ HE JUST VANISHES/

VANISHES? NO, MOTHER...HE JUST GETS HARDER TO SEE/ IF YOU LOOKED DEEP INSIDE THE GLASS ANT COLONY, YOU'D FIND [redacted]D...

G'BYE, FRIENDS/ MOM WANTS ME TO EAT AND I DON'T WANT TO WORRY HER TOO MUCH/

END

PEOPLE WHO DO BIG THINGS FOR HUMANITY ARE REAL HEROES...BRAVE MEN OF ACTION. AND NOBODY COULD BE FURTHER FROM THIS DESCRIPTION THAN **WILLIE SHAPIRO**. HE WAS NO HERO. HE WASN'T EVEN AVERAGE. LET'S BE BLUNT ABOUT IT...HE WAS A...

BORN FAILURE!

STORY: ACE AQUILA
ART: JOHNNY CRAIG

LATER, AT OTHER JOBS, HE WAS THE OFFICE BUTT---
HAW-HAW-HAW!
THE NIT-WIT! HE PROBABLY THINKS IT'S AN AIR RAID!
CR-RUMP!

SOON AFTERWARD, HE MARRIED---BUT THAT WASN'T TOO MUCH OF A SUCCESS, EITHER---
WILLIE'S LOST ANOTHER JOB. I HATE TO ASK YOU, BUT YOU'RE MY BROTHER---
OKAY---YOU WANT ME TO HELP HIM GET ANOTHER JOB AGAIN, RIGHT? SEND HIM AROUND TO SEE ME IN THE MORNING.

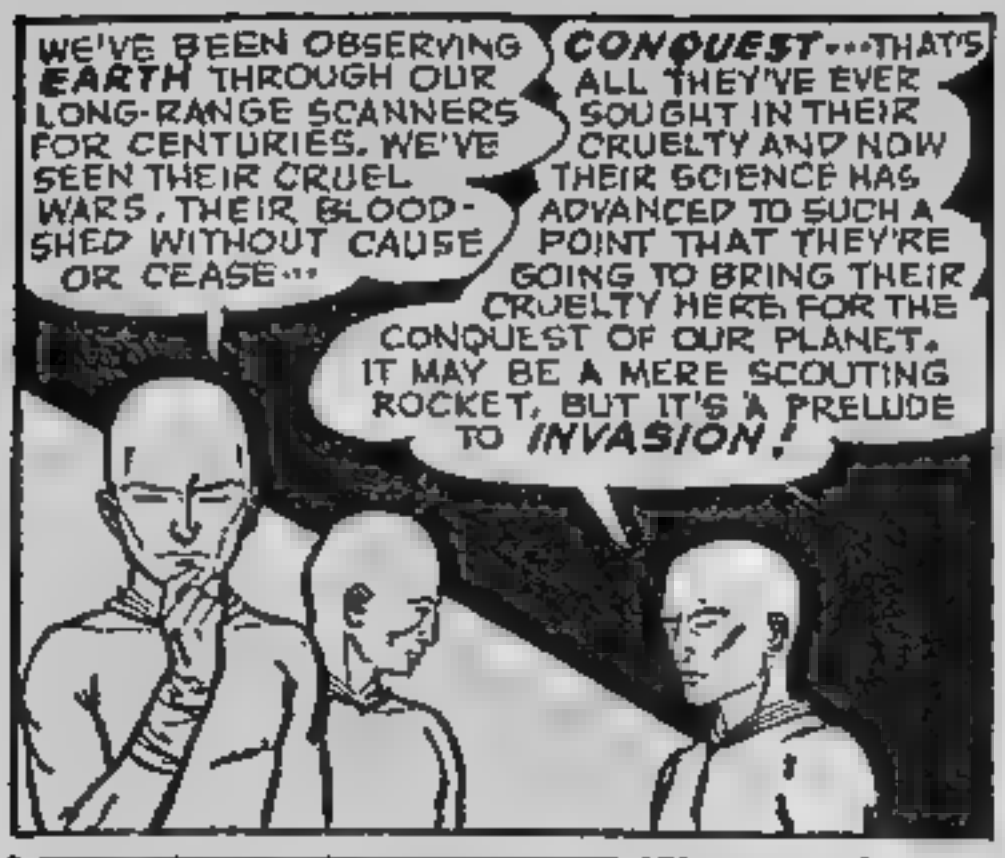
LOOK, YOU'VE FLOPPED AT EVERYTHING---YOU'RE A BORN FAILURE! THIS TIME, TELL ME WHAT KIND OF JOB YOU REALLY WANT AND I'LL MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT FOR YOU!
MAYBE IF I COULD GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SOMETHING WITH A FUTURE. LIKE SPACE TRAVEL!

WILLIE'S BROTHER-IN-LAW WAS VERY INFLUENTIAL---AND IT SO HAPPENED THAT HE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH THE LEADER OF A GREAT SPACE EXPEDITION ABOUT TO BLAST OFF. SO---
I'VE GOT YOUR MEDICAL REPORT HERE---FLAT FEET, OBESITY, INGROWN TOE NAILS---YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE AN ASTRONAUT TO ME! YOU SURE YOU WANT TO COME ALONG ON THIS EXPEDITION?
YEP.

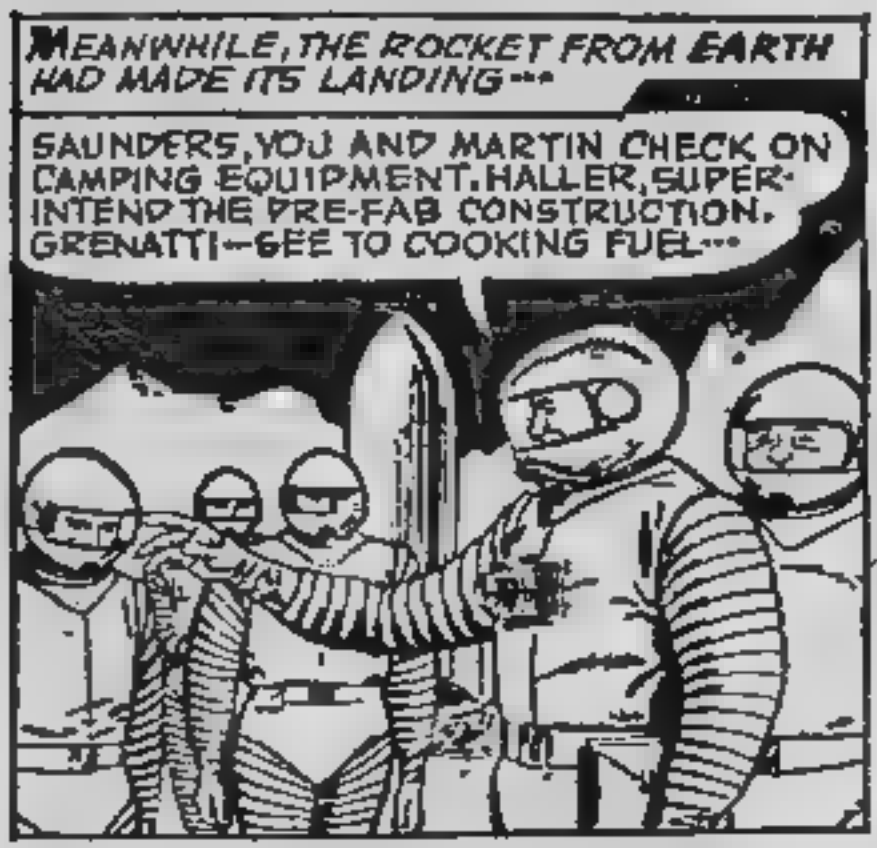
YESSIR, WILLIE, THE CREW HAS VOTED YOU A GRADE-A ASTRONAUT, AND WE WANT TO SALUTE YOU.
GEE, FELLAS, SALUTE ME HOW?

HAW-HAW-HAW!
GRADE-A---WHY, EVEN GRADE Z WOULD BE TOO GOOD FOR THIS FLOP!
CR-RUMP!

BUT AT THIS VERY MOMENT---ON THE TARGET PLANET, DOVARUS---
WELL, IT'S COME AT LAST, AS WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED---A ROCKET FROM EARTH!


WE'VE BEEN OBSERVING EARTH THROUGH OUR LONG-RANGE SCANNERS FOR CENTURIES. WE'VE SEEN THEIR CRUEL WARS, THEIR BLOOD-SHED WITHOUT CAUSE OR CEASE...
CONQUEST...THAT'S ALL THEY'VE EVER SOUGHT IN THEIR CRUELTY AND NOW THEIR SCIENCE HAS ADVANCED TO SUCH A POINT THAT THEY'RE GOING TO BRING THEIR CRUELTY HERE FOR THE CONQUEST OF OUR PLANET. IT MAY BE A MERE SCOUTING ROCKET, BUT IT'S A PRELUDE TO INVASION!

A TOP LEVEL EMERGENCY COUNCIL WAS HELD...
WE'LL CAPTURE THE ROCKET'S PERSONNEL AND PUT THEM TO DEATH... IF THIS IS YOUR WISH, OH, KING.
PLANET EARTH WILL ONLY FOLLOW UP IN ITS HOSTILE ATTEMPTS... UNLESS WE FORESTALL THEM BY A SURPRISE ATTACK OF OUR OWN, WHICH WILL WIPE THEM OUT! MOUNT THE INVASION IMMEDIATELY!


MEANWHILE, THE ROCKET FROM EARTH HAD MADE ITS LANDING...
SAUNDERS, YOU AND MARTIN CHECK ON CAMPING EQUIPMENT. HALLER, SUPER-INTEND THE PRE-FAB CONSTRUCTION. GRENATTI—GEE TO COOKING FUEL...

UH—HOW ABOUT ME, COMMANDER?
YOU? THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO, WILLIE—YOU'VE ONLY BEEN A HINDRANCE TO THIS EXPEDITION SINCE WE STARTED OUT. YOU CAN GO ON A ONE-MAN SCOUTING TRIP OVER THAT WAY—AND STAY AWAY UNTIL WE'VE GOT OUR CAMP PITCHED. LIKE THAT, YOU WON'T GET IN THE WAY!

GOLDURN IT, WHY DOES EVERYBODY ALWAYS PICK ON ME? I'M A NICE FELLA ...I TRY HARD...WHAT DO THEY WANT OF ME, ANYWAY?

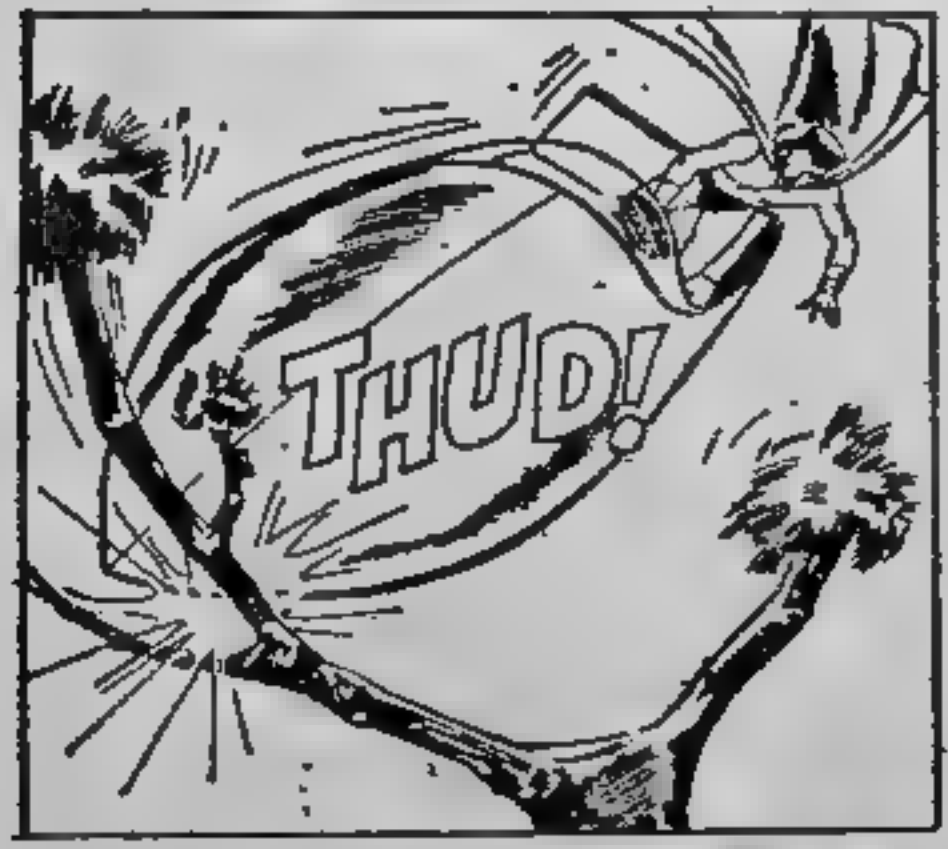
GULP! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED BACK AT THE ROCKET! I GOTTA GO BACK AND HELP THE FELLAS IF THEY'RE IN TROUBLE!
BANG BANG!
SSSSST
EEEYAHHH!

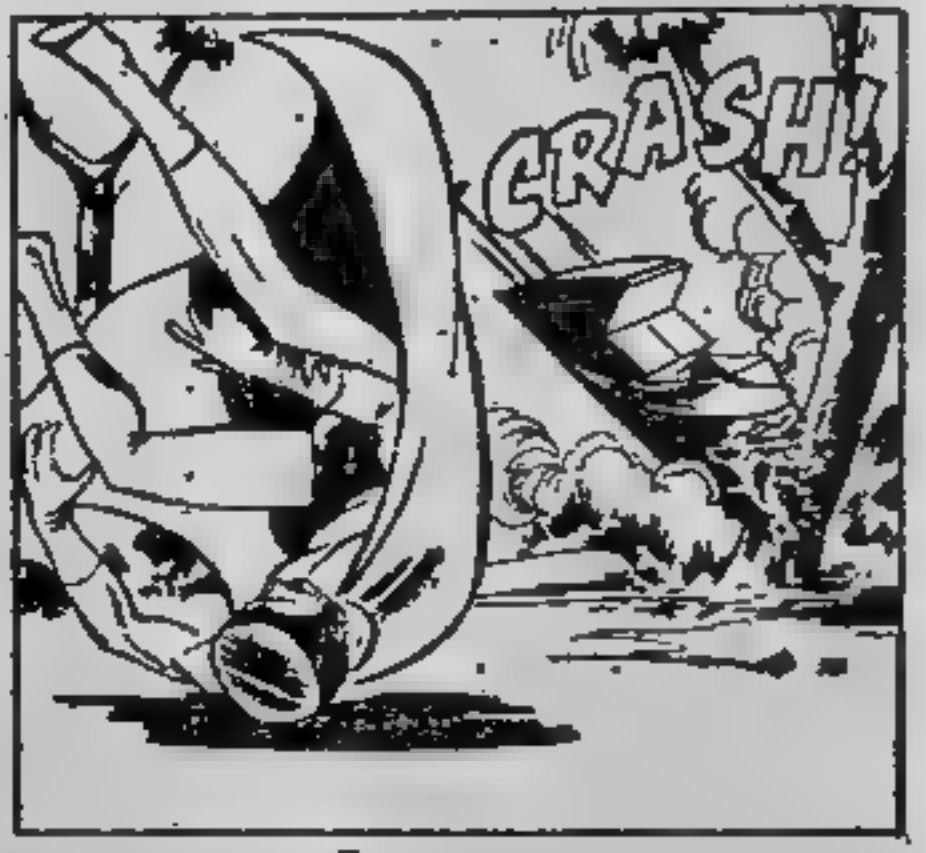
THEY WERE IN TROUBLE, ALL RIGHT...
ALL OF THEM CAPTURED WITHOUT A SINGLE FATALITY! START THEM MOVING...GET THEM BACK TO OUR CITY.

SPACEMEN! THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...I'VE GOTTA GET AWAY!

I'LL PERSONALLY SCOUT IN MY FLYING PLATFORM---JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER EARTHLINGS WE MAY HAVE MISSED.

THERE'S ONE! I'LL TRY TO CUT HIM OFF BEFORE HE CAN ESCAPE INTO THE SHELTER OF THE WOODS!


THUD!


CRASH!

LOOKS AS IF HE'S HURT BAD. I—I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM LIKE THIS---

YOU'RE GOING TO --KILL ME-CRUEL ---LIKE THE OTHERS OF YOUR RACE---
NO--DON'T WORRY. JUST DRINK THIS-- THEN I'LL BANDAGE YOU---

THEY WERE ABLE TO SPEAK IN THE INTERPLANETARY LANGUAGE WHICH HAD COME INTO USE TOWARDS THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY. BUT NOW THE KING HAD CONTRACTED A HIGH FEVER, AND FOR DAYS HUNG BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. ALL THE TIME, WILLIE STAYED LOYALLY BY HIS SIDE, CARING FOR HIM---
OH-HHH...
TAKE IT EASY. YOU'RE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT...

FINALLY THE FEVER BROKE...
YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO TRAVEL NOW--WITH MY HELP, I'M TAKING YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG--TO YOUR CITY.
BUT YOU'RE AN EARTHLING! AREN'T YOU AFRAID THEY MAY KILL YOU?

I SURE AM---BUT WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? IF I LEFT YOU HERE, YOU COULD HAVE A RELAPSE AND DIE.
LET'S GO--AND DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH. I HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE---AND MAYBE THEY WON'T PUT YOU TO DEATH, AFTER ALL!

WE'RE HERE--AND THEY'VE SIGHTED US. HERE THEY COME!

LOOK! AN EARTHMAN WITH OUR KING!
PUT BACK YOUR WEAPONS! HE'S A FRIEND--THE BEST WE'VE EVER HAD!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE THEIR KING? G-GOLLY!

THIS MAN RISKED HIS OWN LIFE FOR ME. HE CARED FOR ME WHEN I WAS INJURED AND NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH---WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHO I WAS! THIS IS NOT THE CRUELTY WE EXPECTED FROM EARTHLINGS! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS WHO WERE CAPTURED?

NOTHING--THEY ARE IMPRISONED. WE COULD PASS NO SENTENCE ON THEM WITHOUT YOU TO SIGN THE ORDER FOR THEIR EXECUTION.
RELEASE THEM! NOT ONLY THAT, BUT CALL OFF ALL PREPARATIONS FOR OUR INVASION OF EARTH!

FROM NOW ON, THERE SHALL ONLY BE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR WORLDS. AND I SHALL LET YOUR PEOPLE KNOW THAT IT WAS YOU WHO MADE ALL THIS POSSIBLE!
PLEASE, DON'T TELL THEM. THEY---THEY MIGHT THINK I WAS LOOKING FOR GLORY! I'D RATHER IT WAS A SECRET!

AND SO---
KER-POW!

THE LONG TRIP BACK---
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO PEEL POTATOES! CONFOUND IT, DON'T YOU EVER GET ANYTHING RIGHT?

PLANET EARTH---
HURRAH!

IT WAS A ROUSING, ROARING WELCOME---
BY JOVE, YOU'RE HEROES! I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'VE ARRANGED FOR MEDALS FOR EVERYONE OF YOU!
PLEASE, NOT EVERYONE. NOT THAT ONE---

BELIEVE ME, THAT JOE IS A BORN FAILURE!
THE END!

"9f 9'm ALIVE or DEAD!"

YOU HEAR MANY STRANGE STORIES --BUT FEW STRANGER THAN THIS ONE, ADVANCED BY STUDENTS OF THE OCCULT! IT CONCERNS OLD POP CHANNING--A TELEGRAPHER ON THE OLD KANSAS WESTERN IN THE YEAR 1887---

IT WAS A STORMY DAY IN LATE NOVEMBER! THE SKY WAS BLACK AS NIGHT AS POP PREPARED TO DEPART FOR THE TELEGRAPHER'S OFFICE---

IT AIN'T A MATTER OF BEIN' LATE, MAN--BUT OF THE LIVES OF THE TRAIN CREWS AND PASSENGERS! AS FOR MY LIFE, DON'T YOU WORRY--I'M GONNA SEE THAT THE TRAINS GO THROUGH SAFELY IF I'M ALIVE OR DEAD!

AS HE PUSHED HIS WAY THROUGH THE ROARING TEMPEST--
IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR HOURS--AND IT'S GETTIN' WORSE! I--I HOPE THINGS STAY SAFE ALONG THE LINE!

HE REACHED THE POINT WHERE A NARROW TRESTLE HAD SPANNED A DEEP GULCH--AND STOOD HORRIFIED!
HOLY SMOKE IT'S DOWN! THE STORM'S WRECKED IT! THE NEXT TRAIN DUE THROUGH HERE IS THE LIMITED--SHE'LL COME SWEEPIN' AROUND THAT BLIND CURVE AND INTO THE GULLEY!

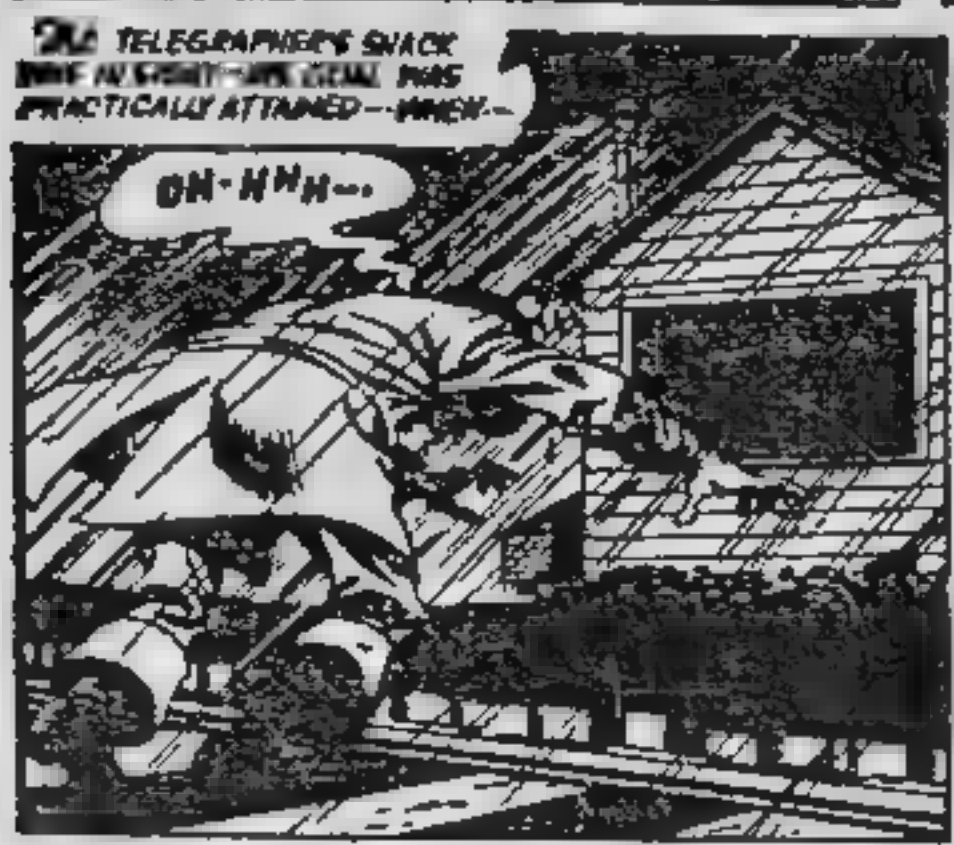
I--I GOTTA GET ACROSS HERE GET TO MY INSTRUMENT AND SEND OUT A WARNIN' AND THIS IS--THE ONLY WAY!

IT MEANT COURTING DEATH AT EVERY STEP - BUT THERE WAS NO CHOICE--

I GOTTA MAKE IT--I JUST GOTTA!

HE MANAGED TO CROSS THE WATER SAFELY--BUT THEN IT BECAME A MATTER OF CLIMBING PERILOUSLY UPWARD! IT WAS A FEARFUL STRAIN ON HIS AGED AND WEAKENED HEART--
IF--IF ONLY IT'LL HOLD TILL I CAN GET TO THE TOP---

IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT THE OLD MAN MADE IT! BUT THE BATTLE WAS FAR FROM OVER--
PLEASE--DON'T LET NOTHIN' HAPPEN NOW! MY SHACKS--NOT FAR--I CAN SEND OUT A WARNIN' OVER--THE WIRE--


THE TELEGRAPHER'S SHACK WHICH AN EXPIRING GIANT HAS PRACTICALLY ATTAINED--WHEW--
OH-HHH--

THE LIMITED WAS DUE TO ROAR THROUGH THE NEXT STATION OF THE LINE AT 10 43! AT 10.42---
THAT'S POP CHANNING UP AT ELKSON--I'D KNOW HIS TOUCH ON THE KEY ANYWHERE! HE'S THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN STUTTER IN MORSE!
CLIK!
CLIK-CLIK!

HEY, WHAT'S UP?
GREAT HEAVENS!
CLIK-CLIK
CLICK CLICK
A WRECK--UNLESS I CAN STOP IT IN TIME!

JUST IN TIME, HE BROUGHT THE LIMITED TO A STOP!

SHE'S STOPPIN', GLORY BE!

IMMEDIATELY, A WORK TRAIN WAS DISPATCHED TO REPAIR THE TRESTLE! IT STOPPED OFF AT ELVSON — WHERE A TERRIBLE FIND WAS MADE...

POOR OLD FELLA ...HE'S **DEAD!** DROPPED IN HIS TRACKS RIGHT HERE!

BUT WHAT WAS THE OLD MAN DOING OUT **HERE**, IF HE HAD JUST SENT THE TELEGRAPH MESSAGE WHICH HAD SAVED THE LIMITED? AN INQUIRY WAS HELD...

WHEN HE OPENED THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE, IT WAS DRY INSIDE—HE COULD SEE **NOBODY'D BEEN IN THERE SINCE THE STORM STARTED!** BESIDES, POP WOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT HIS KEY WHILE HE WAS ON DUTY! HE NEVER GOT THERE—HE DIED OUTSIDE IN THE RAIN BEFORE HE COULD GET TO HIS SHACK!

THE NEXT WITNESS WAS THE TELEGRAPHER WHO'D RECEIVED THE MYSTERIOUS MESSAGE...

SURE, I AGREE WITH THE LAST WITNESS—HE **HAD** TO BE RIGHT! BUT GOLDURN IT, IT **WAS** POP CHANNING AT THAT KEY—I'D HAVE KNOWN HIS SENDING **ANYWHERE!**

NEXT CAME THE DOCTOR WHO HAD EXAMINED THE OLD MAN'S BODY...

WE HAVE HEARD TESTIMONY THAT THE WARNING MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT 10:42! ACCORDING TO YOUR EXAMINATION WHEN WOULD YOU SAY THAT MR. CHANNING HAD DIED?

AT LEAST **AN HOUR BEFORE THAT TIME! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!**

NOBODY COULD HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE LOCKED TELEGRAPH OFFICE TO SEND THAT WIRE—NOBODY COULD HAVE HAD POP'S DISTINCTIVE TOUCH! BUT WHAT WAS IT THAT HE HAD SAID ON THAT FATEFUL MORNING AS HE LEFT HOME...?

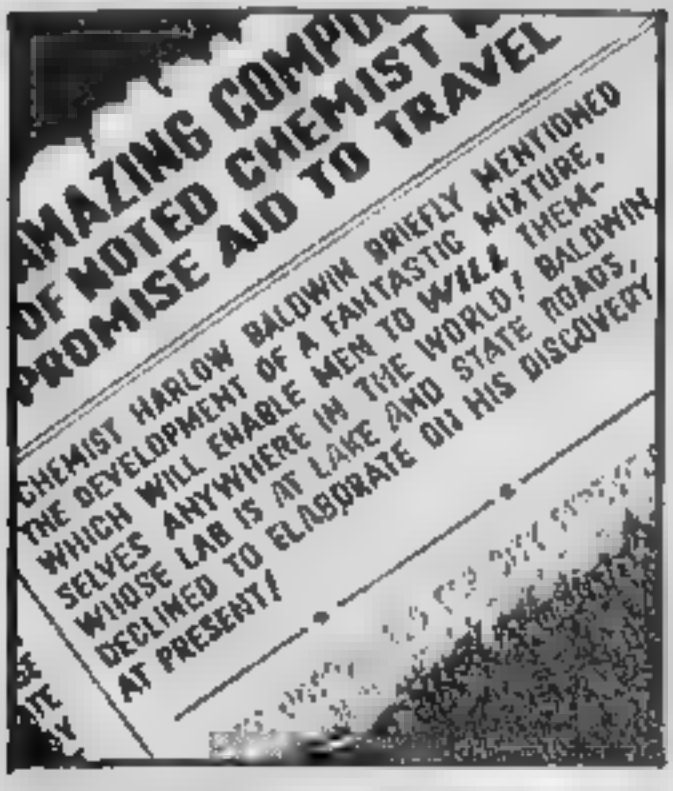
I'M GONNA SEE THAT THE TRAINS GO THROUGH SAFELY **IF I'M ALIVE OR DEAD!**

IS THIS A TRUE MANIFESTATION OF THE OCCULT? WHAT DO YOU THINK, READER?

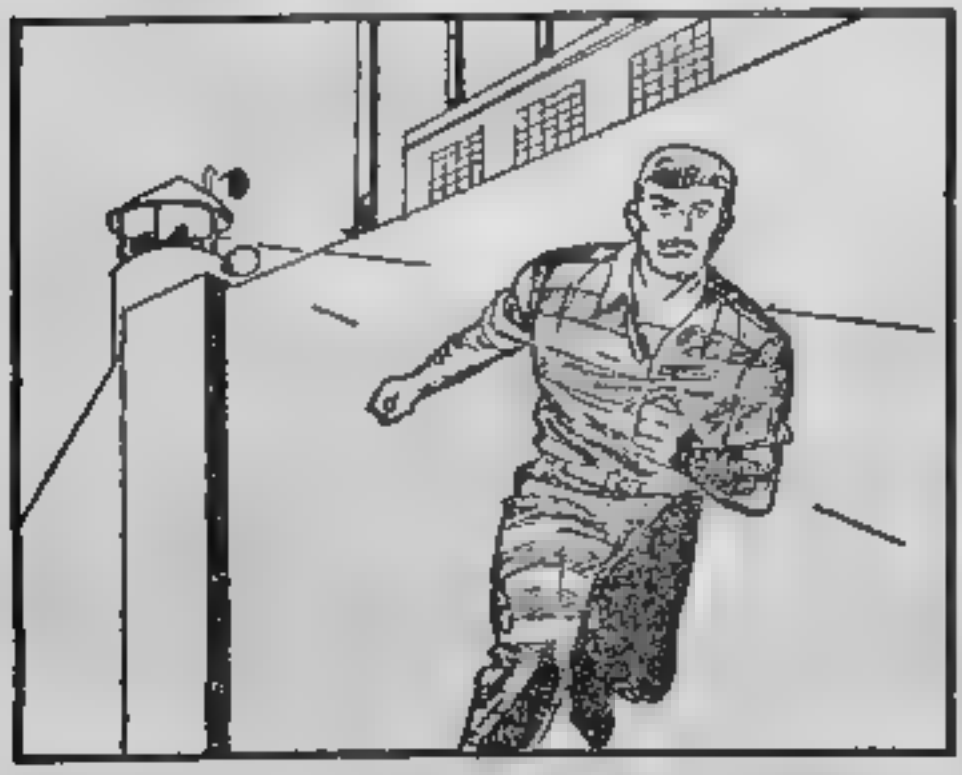
FIVE YEARS IS A LONG TIME TO STAY BEHIND BARS! AND AFTER TWO MONTHS IN PRISON, RUDY PAIGE WAS WILLING TO TRY EVEN AN ASTONISHING LIQUID AS A MEANS OF ESCAPE! THE CHEMIST'S STRANGE COMPOUND DID ITS WORK AND RUDY STARTED WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE...

The ENDLESS JOURNEY

THE PRISONER RETURNED TO HIS CELL...



THAT NIGHT, RUDY PAIGE WENT OVER THE WALL, AND HIS ESCAPE WAS QUICKLY DISCOVERED...

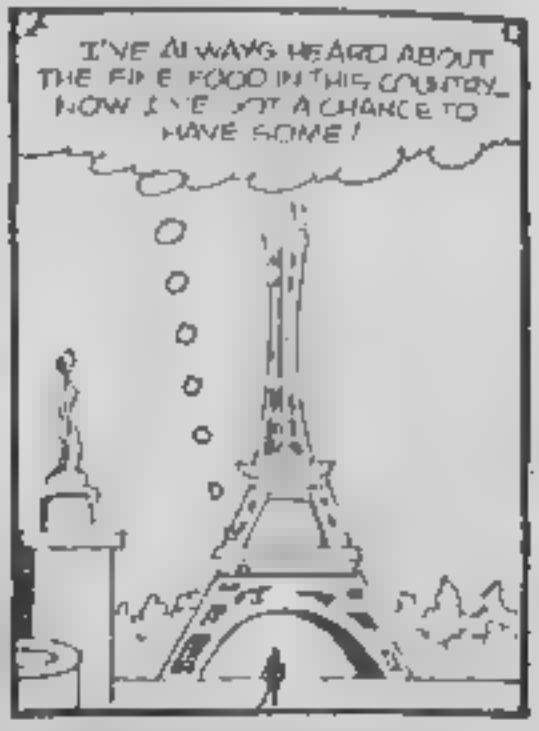


THE DESPERATE CONVICT HAD GONE LESS THAN A QUARTER OF A MILE, WHEN DISCOVERED BY HIS PURSUERS IN THE DISTANCE BEHIND HIM...

RUDY PAIGE REACHED THE BALDWIN LAB A HALF-HOUR LATER! HIS RELENTLESS PURSUERS HAD STUCK DOGGEDLY TO HIS TRAIL...

THE VANISHED FUGITIVE TURNED UP A MOMENT LATER IN NEW YORK CITY! HE FIRST DECIDED TO GET RID OF HIS PRISON GARB! BREAKING IN A STORE WAS NOT NEW TO HIM...

IT WAS AFTERNOON IN PARIS WHEN RUDY PAIGE ARRIVED THERE... A LIGHTNING-LIKE JOURNEY...

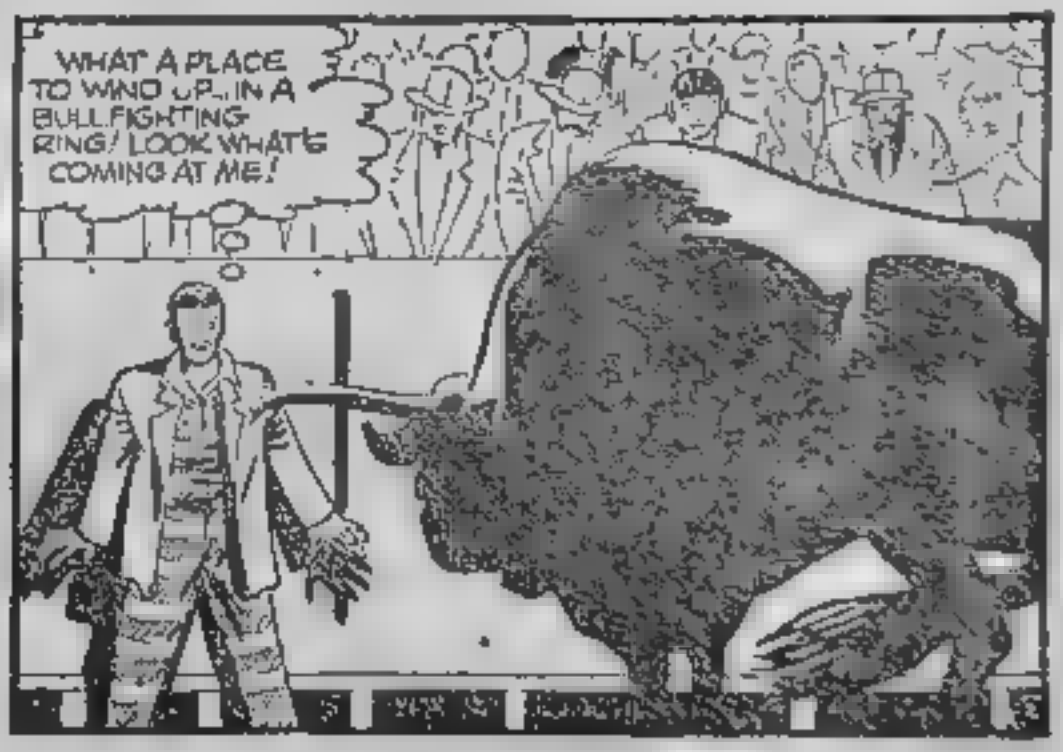


RUDY LET THE WAITER SELECT A BIG DINNER FOR HIM.

HE HAD TAKEN BUT A FEW BITES OF HIS MEAL WHEN A STRANGE THING HAPPENED...

RUDY HAD BEEN WHISKED AWAY CARRIED INTO A VOID EMPTINESS!

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, RUDY FELT SOLID LAND UNDER HIS FEET! BUT HIS MOMENT OF JOY DISAPPEARED, WHEN HE SAW WHERE HE WAS...



THE THUNDERING OF HOOFS FELL HEAVILY ON RUDY'S EARS. HE CLOSED HIS EYES AND TRIED HIS ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE...

CHINA IT WAS, IN AN INSTANT! BUT AS HE WANDERED ABOUT THE STREETS OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRY, ROUGH HANDS QUICKLY SEIZED HIM...

AFTER SOME MOMENTS OF ROUGH HANDLING RUDY PAIGE WAS BACK IN EMPTY SPACE...

WHILE RUDY WAS *WILLING* HIMSELF BACK TO WHERE HE'D STARTED FROM, PRISON GUARD, CAPTAIN ABNER HAYWARD, WAITED PATIENTLY...

SUDDENLY, RUDY PAIGE WAS GONE AGAIN BACK INTO EMPTY SPACE... TO FACE CONSTANT DANGER!

CALLING MR. FOX

"THE trouble is, on April Fool's day if you leave a message for somebody to phone Mr. Fox, they usually won't do it half the time," said Wicky Burke, reflectively.

"You ain't just kiddin', you ain't," agreed Boit Bird.

"Because," declared Wicky, "they know it's April Fool's day and they know if they call Mr. Fox they'll get the zoo."

"That's right," Boit admitted. "An' they won't call Mr. Baer or Mr. Wolfe or Mr. Hippopotamus, neither."

"They wouldn't call Mr. Hippopotamus any day," asserted Wicky. "An' I bet you couldn't even spell it if you wanted to."

"Yes I could," said Boit. "I—T. That spells 'it'."

"You're so bright your mother calls you 'Sun'," said Wicky.

"Pass the walnuts, ma, he's crackin' 'em today," Boit came back.

"Well, anyway," Wicky continued, "I was thinking that if, at this time of year, somebody left a note to call Mr. Fox and put the zoo phone number on it, why they'd have a better chance of success than on April Fool's day."

"You ain't just kiddin'. Leave us do it!" Agreed Boit.

The boys went inside the Burke house, got out the phone book, and looked up the zoo number. Then they started making calls. They phoned everybody they could think of, leaving messages to call Mr. Fox or Mr. Wolfe or Mr. Baer. Then the game got a little tiresome and they went outside.

"The thing that's wrong with the way we did it is that we never got to see the faces of people when they finally called up an' got the zoo," said Boit.

"That's right," said Wicky, "although you can imagine how mad old Mrs. Pennyfeather got about it."

"I would like to've seen *her* face!"

"I would like to've seen my pop's face. Bet he was mad! Say, what time is it?"

"Not quite two," said Boit.

"Well, come on. Let's hurry down to my pop's office. He usually doesn't get back from lunch till a little after two and the message to call Mr. Fox will be waiting for him and we'll have some fun."

MR. BURKE came into his office after lunch feeling well satisfied. He'd had a good lunch. He smiled at Wicky and Boit and asked, "Well, boys, what can I do for you?"

"We—uh—just dropped in to see if we could run any errands or anything," replied Wicky.

"Yeh, we're good errand-runners," agreed Boit, and giggled.

"Well, stick around a minute and I'll see if I can think of any," said Mr. Burke. "Any calls for me, Miss Trilling?" he asked his secretary.

"Yes, a Mr. Fox called. Shall I get him?"

Boit nudged Wicky.

"No, go right ahead with your typing. Give me his number and I'll get him," Mr. Burke replied. He hummed a little tune as he dialed the number. "Hello. Mr. Fox?"

The receiver sputtered as if someone on the other end were extremely angry. Mr. Burke hung up the phone. "The zoo!" he exclaimed. "Now I wonder what moron could be pulling *that* stale joke?"

Mr. Burke's happy mood was by no means diminished. He turned to Wicky any errands for you but I appreciate the offer. I'm going to take you out and buy you each an ice cream soda."

After the soda, Wicky and Boit returned to the office with Mr. Burke who had invited, "Come on up with me for a few minutes and see how a well-run business is operated. You know, son, I expect you to be my partner some day when you're older."

As they entered, Miss Trilling said, "Mr. Burke, Mr. Fox called again. He wants you to call back right away. Says its urgent."

"Ho," said Mr. Burke, "I'm not going to fall for that joke twice. Forget it, Miss Trilling."

IT was a half hour later that Miss Trilling informed Mr. Burke that someone was calling who would not give his name. Mr. Burke picked up his phone and a voice boomed, plainly, so that even Wicky and Boit had no trouble hearing. It said, "Mr. Burke, this is George B. Fox of Fox and Hargrove. I had a big order for your firm, but if you don't think enough of my business to call me back when I leave an urgent message, I shall take my money to your competitor, Claxton & Company. Good day, sir!"

Wicky and Boit said good-by hastily and got out the door.

In the hallway Boit said, "Gosh, Wicky, I didn't think a little joke would turn out like that."

"Me neither," said Wicky. "We've got to do something. Listen, Fox and Hargrove aren't far from here. I'll run in there and talk to Mr. Fox personally and tell him what happened and maybe he'll change his mind. Meanwhile, you've got to keep him from talking to Claxton & Company till I get there." And Wicky explained to Boit just what he wanted him to do.

Wicky ran all the way. In the elevator up to the Fox & Hargrove offices he decided he wouldn't have any time to try to argue with a receptionist to let him in to see Mr. Fox. He worked out a ruse.

To the girl at the outer desk he said, "I'm the special messenger Mr. Fox sent for," and walked right past her to the door marked "George B. Fox, private."

Mr. Fox was on the phone shouting, "But by thunder, WHY can't you get me Claxton & Company?"

Wicky could hear a girl replying, "It's very strange, sir. Whenever I say Mr. Fox is calling, they just laugh in my face and hang up."

Mr. Fox angrily cradled the phone and turned to Wicky. "Well?"

Wicky talked fast and earnestly. He had plotted out a number of different wild tales he was going to tell Mr. Fox, but one look at the man's stern face had told him he was a fellow who could spot a lie from a mile away. So Wicky told the plain truth. He confessed all. He said that he and Boit had meant only to play a harmless joke on his father. He said he now realized that such jokes could have serious consequences.

He pleaded with Mr. Fox to give Mr. Burke the contract as he had planned; and not to let a misunderstanding interfere.

The sincerity of the freckle-faced youth must have appealed to Mr. Fox. Suddenly he broke into a grin. "Hmmmm," he said, "boys just can't keep out of mischief, can they? Used to pull stunts like that, myself. O. K., I'll give your father the business. But it's lucky I couldn't get Claxton & Company on the phone or you'd be too late."

"That wasn't just luck, sir," Wicky explained. "You see, my friend Boit called *them* and said Mr. Fox was calling and gave *them* the zoo number, too."

MR. FOX looked startled for a moment, then leaned back in his swivel chair and laughed heartily.

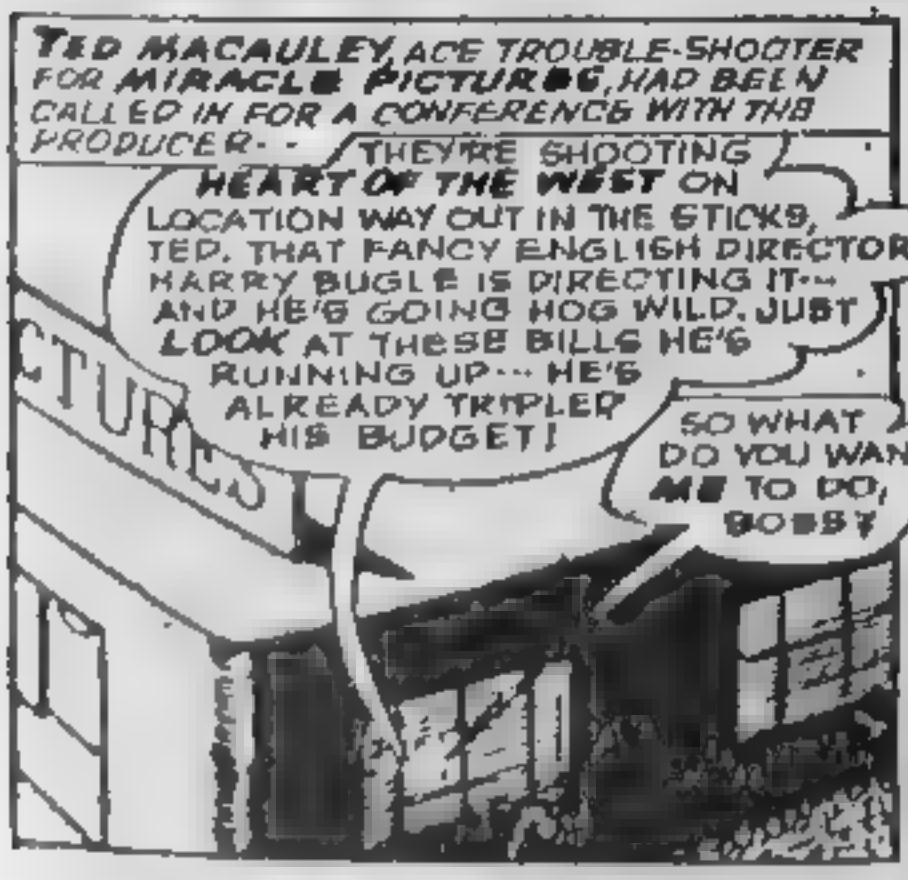
"You're all right, my boy," he declared. "You'll go far."

THE END

SPIRITS FROM A CENTURY PAST---THE SHADES OF DESPERATE MEN LONG SINCE DEAD. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU EXPECT TO SEE IN A---

GHOST TOWN!

STORY: ACE AQUILA
ART: EDD ASHE



OF ALL THE PLACES TO SEND ME TO ...THEY MUST BE SHOOTING HEART OF THE WEST 6,000 MILES DUE WEST OF NOWHERE! WITH THE DIRECTIONS I GOT, I'LL NEVER FIND THE PLACE!

YEAH, I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE SHOOTIN' THAT PICTURE, BUT IT AIN'T EASY TO FIND. MAKE SURE YOU STICK TO THE KNOWN ROADS -- THAT WHOLE AREA AIN'T EXACTLY SAFE!
MISTER, YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE. MIND TELLING ME JUST WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

OH, NOTHIN'. IT'S ONLY THAT THINGS HAPPEN TO FOLKS WHO GO POKIN' THEIR NOSES IN WHERE THEY SHOULDN'T.
THANKS FOR NOTHING. I GO WHERE I PLEASE AND NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME!

SIXTY MILES FURTHER...
THE MAP SHOWS A SHORTCUT THAT COULD SAVE ME A LOT OF DRIVING. THIS DIRT ROAD MAY BE IT. I'M NOT SURE, BUT I'M GOING TO TRY IT.

OH, GREAT... LOOK WHAT THE ROAD'S TURNED INTO, AND I CAN'T TURN -- HAVE TO WAIT FOR A PLACE WHERE I CAN.

THE BRIDGE HE CAME TO SHORTLY WAS OLD AND LOOKED SHAKY, BUT HE DECIDED TO TAKE A CHANCE. TOO BAD!
GR-RUNCH!
SPLASH!

IT'S GOING DOWN FAST... CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. THE WATER LOOKS SHALLOW...

IT...IT'S QUICKSAND! HELP! H-HELP!

QUICK! GRAB THIS ROPE!

YOU'VE MADE IT. YOU'RE SAFE.
THANK... HEAVENS!

I'M GLAD I HAPPENED TO BE PASSING.
I'VE GOT TO THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE. IF YOU HADN'T CHANCED ALONG AND THROWN ME THAT ROPE, I'D BE A DEAD DUCK.

THAT SHORTCUT I TOOK MUST HAVE BEEN RIGHT, AFTER ALL. JUDGING FROM YOUR COSTUME, YOU'RE IN THE CAST OF HEART OF THE WEST.
THE...THE CAST? HEART ...OF THE WEST?

OF COURSE. LOOK, I'VE GOT TO GET TO TOWN, WHERE THE COMPANY IS, SO I CAN TALK TO HARRY BUGLE. WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME AS IF YOU D'DN'T UNDERSTAND? I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME TO THE TOWN!
NO! I CAN'T DO THAT...I WON'T DO IT! WHILE YOU'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE ...RUN!

LOOK, SUPPOSE YOU CONFINE YOUR PLAY-ACTING TO THE PICTURE. I'M GOING TO GO TO THE TOWN AND THERE'S NOTHING ANYBODY CAN DO TO STOP ME. GET GOING!
ALL RIGHT... BUT YOU...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

HER NAME WAS MARY ARDEN--AND THE PATH SHE TOOK WAS LONELY, FRIGHTENING...
THIS---THIS IS A REAL CHEERFUL SORT OF PLACE, ISN'T IT?
WHOO-OOOO

SHE DOESN'T SEEM SCARED. I'LL SEE THIS THROUGH--I WON'T CHICKEN OUT...
YEEEE-HA-HA!

FINALLY...
SO THIS IS IT, EH? WHAT A SET! YOU'D THINK IT REALLY WAS A GHOST TOWN!

GULP! UH--HELLO FELLAS! SWELL MAKEUP ---YOU ALL LOOK LIKE THE REAL McCOY!

YOU DID A GOOD JOB, DAUGHTER, BY BRINGING HIM HERE!
SAY, WHERE ARE THE TRUCKS AND CAMERAS--?

HE WANTS TO KNOW WHERE THE TRUCKS AND CAMERAS ARE!
WHAT ARE TRUCKS AND CAMERAS?
HO-HO!
HA-HA-HA!

THEN, TO HIS HORROR--
GREAT SCOTT, THEY'RE LOSING VISIBILITY! THEY'RE TURNING INTO--G-GHOSTS!

I... I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE...

UH...
POUF!

OH-HH!
POUF!

ONCE AGAIN, HE FLED IN ANOTHER DIRECTION...AND THIS TIME, GAINED THE PEAK OF A STEEP HILL...
LET'S SEE THEM GET ME HERE! I'LL ROLL DOWN THE ROCKS ON THEM IF THEY TRY TO CLIMB UP AFTER ME!

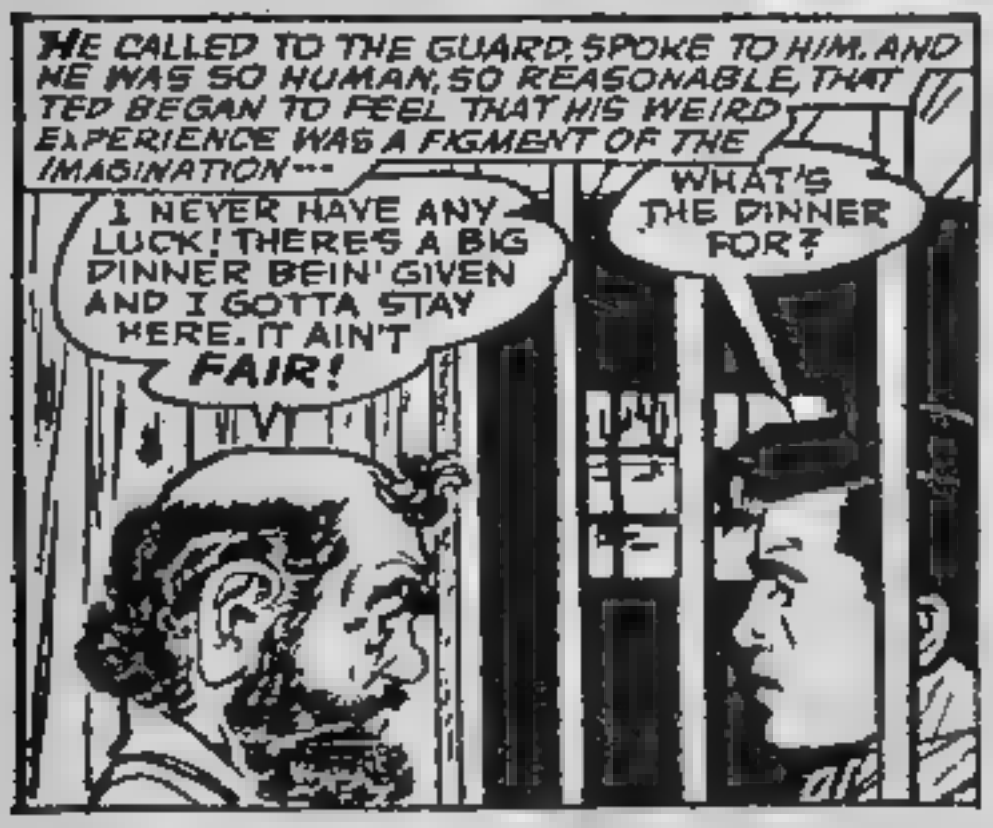
BUT THEY DIDN'T TRY TO CLIMB INSTEAD...
ENOUGH OF TOYING WITH HIM. LET'S GET THE MORTAL NOW!

NO! NO!

WE HAVE HIM. WHAT DO YOU WANT DONE WITH HIM?
PUT HIM IN THE OLD LOCKUP. HE'LL BE SAFE THERE UNTIL OUR VISITOR ARRIVES!

IN THERE!

I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT ALL! I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS--- THAT'S RIDICULOUS. CAN IT BE SOME KIND OF PRACTICAL JOKE? BUT THAT WOULDN'T EXPLAIN PEOPLE LOSING SUBSTANCE, FLYING IN THE AIR


HE CALLED TO THE GUARD, SPOKE TO HIM, AND HE WAS SO HUMAN, SO REASONABLE, THAT TED BEGAN TO FEEL THAT HIS WEIRD EXPERIENCE WAS A FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION---
I NEVER HAVE ANY LUCK! THERE'S A BIG DINNER BEIN' GIVEN AND I GOTTA STAY HERE. IT AIN'T FAIR!
WHAT'S THE DINNER FOR?

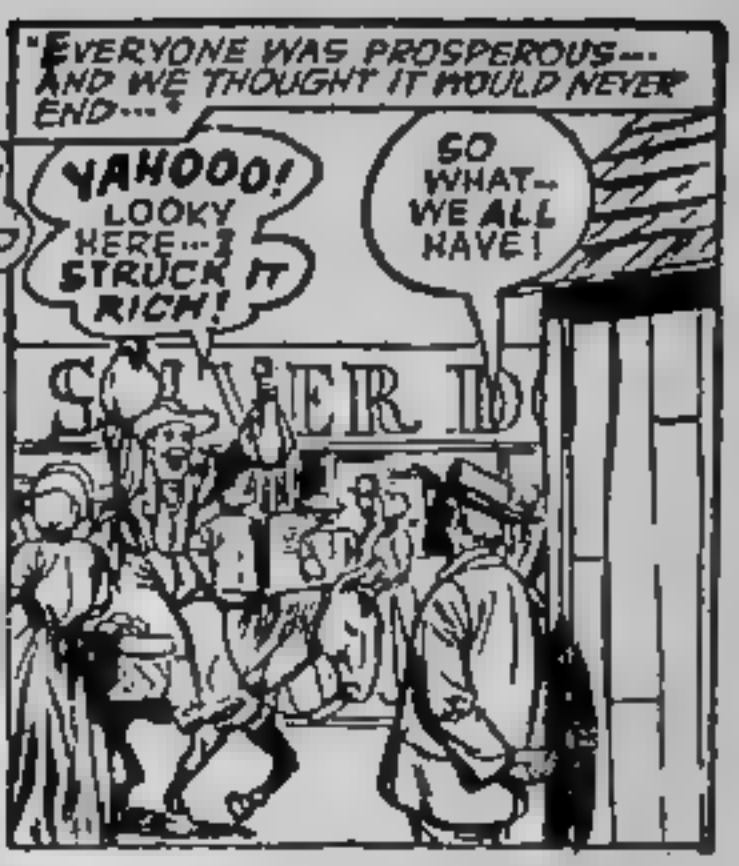
WHY, IT'S IN YOUR HONOR, OF COURSE. IN HONOR OF YOU AND ONE MORE YEAR FOR US!
HIS ARM--- SOLID--- I KNEW THEY COULDN'T BE GHOSTS! IT MUST HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION--- I WAS UNNERVED BY THE EXPERIENCES I'VE GONE THROUGH!

OH-HHH! NOW HE'S TURNING INTO A G-GHOST! MY HAND GOES RIGHT THROUGH HIM!
HA-HA-HA!

SUDDENLY, SHE WAS THERE---MARY---
YOU NEEDN'T STAY, SAGEBRUSH. I'LL STAY WITH THE PRISONER--- YOU CAN GO TO THE DINNER.
THANKS, MARM.

OH, WHY DIDN'T YOU BELIEVE ME? WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN, AND STAY AWAY FROM THIS TERRIBLE PLACE?
PLEASE, MARY...BEFORE I GO CRAZY... TELL ME WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT!

YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW...YOU HAVEN'T GOT MUCH MORE TIME TO GO. IT ALL BEGAN A CENTURY AGO...THIS TOWN, BONANZA GULCH, HAD HAD A RECENT GOLD STRIKE...


"EVERYONE WAS PROSPEROUS... AND WE THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER END..."
YAHOOO! LOOKY HERE...I STRUCK IT RICH!
SO WHAT-- WE ALL HAVE!

"BUT THEN THE GOLD PETERED OUT. THE CROWDS LEFT...EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO REMAINED BEHIND, HOPING THAT GOLD WOULD BE FOUND ONCE MORE..."
YOU MARK MY WORD... BONANZA GULCH IS GONNA STAGE A COME-BACK AND WE'LL ALL BE RICH AGAIN!

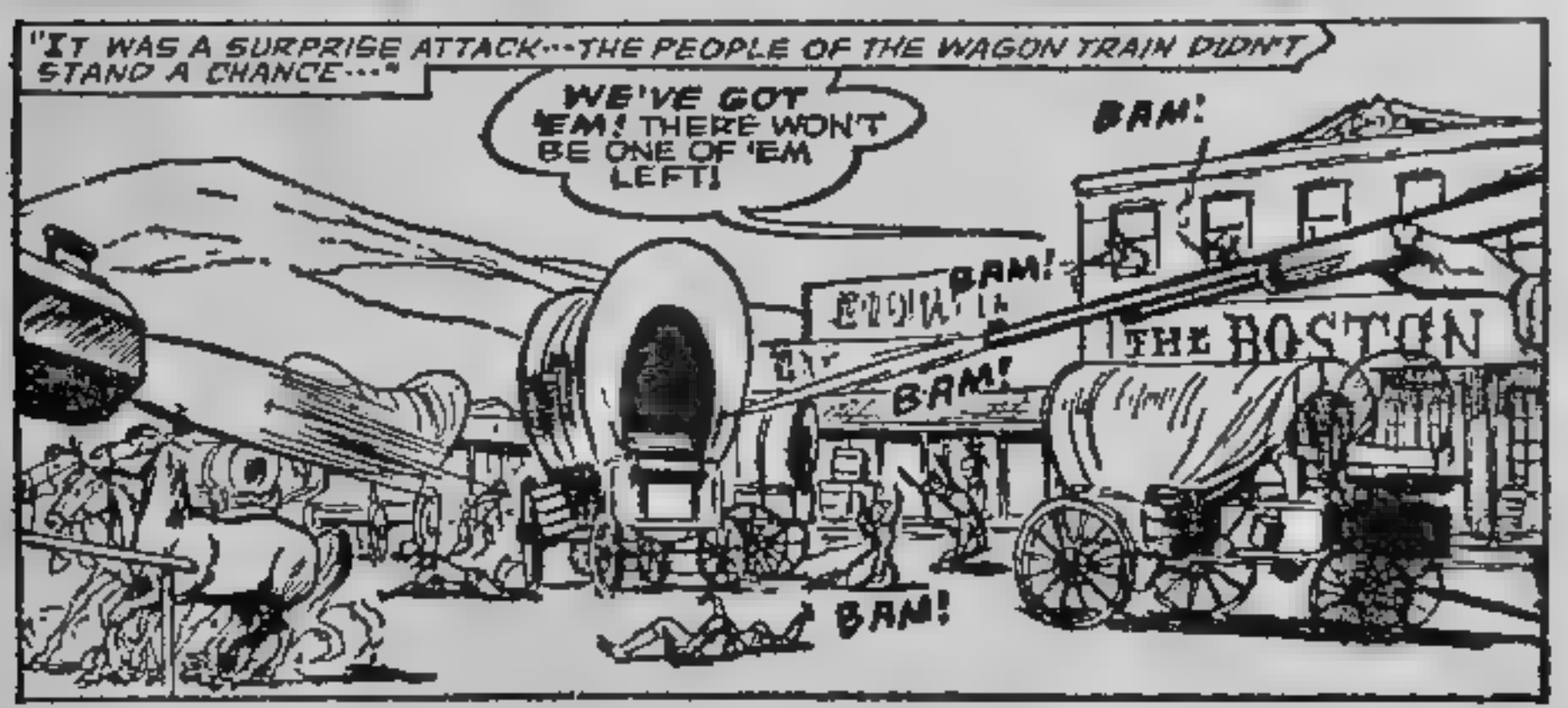
"THEN CAME A CRUEL, HARD WINTER. THERE WAS NO GAME OF ANY KIND TO BE FOUND AND PROVISIONS HAD ALMOST GIVEN OUT..."
NO GAME, WE DIDN'T GET A THING.
BUT WE'RE... WE'RE STARVING!

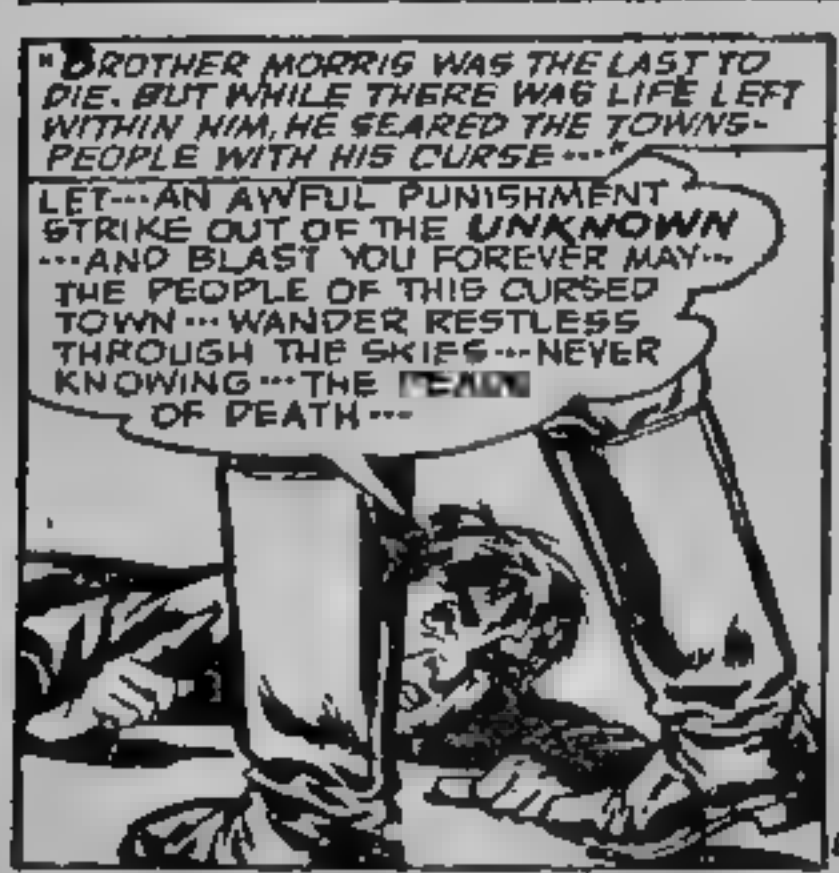
"WITH SPRING, THEY RECEIVED THEIR FIRST VISITORS..."
LOOK! IT'S A WAGON TRAIN...
THANK GOSH...

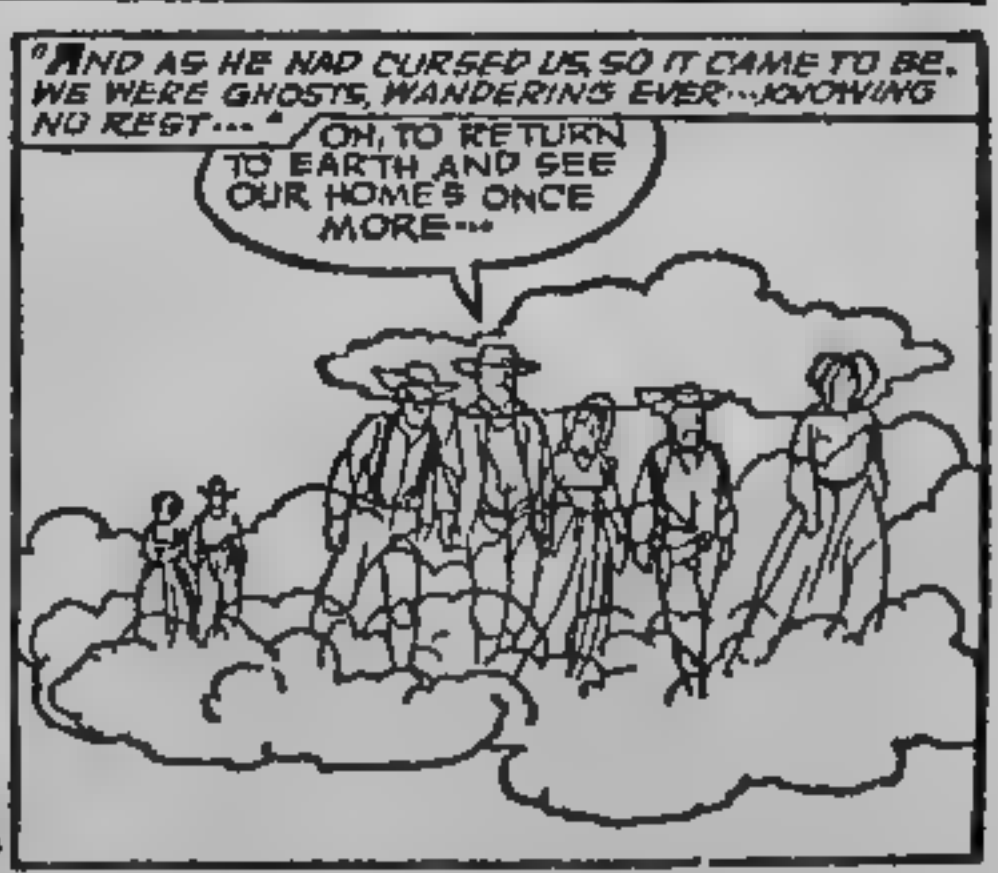
"IT WAS THE MORRIS EXPEDITION, LED BY BROTHER MORRIS. THEY WERE HEADING TOWARDS A HOME IN THE WILDERNESS, WHERE THEY PLANNED TO FOUND A PERFECT SETTLEMENT. SEEING THE PLIGHT OF THE TOWNSFOLK, THEY FED THEM GENEROUSLY..."
AS YE HUNGER, SO SHALL I FEED YOU. TAKE WHAT YOU NEED IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY.
THANK YOU. WE'LL NEVER ...FORGET THIS.

DID YOU SEE HOW RICH THEY WERE? AND THE FOOD THEY HAVE IN THEIR WAGONS ...ALL THAT FOOD!
IT'S NOT FAIR THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE SO MUCH AND US NOTHING!

IF WE STAY HERE WE'LL STARVE --AND WE'RE TOO WEAK TO GET OUT. BUT WITH THEIR MONEY THEIR SUPPLIES, THEIR WAGONS WE COULD ALL OF US ESCAPE, GET BACK TO CIVILIZATION! WHAT DO YOU SAY, BOYS?
COUNT ME IN!
ME TOO. WE'RE ALL WITH YOU!


"IT WAS A SURPRISE ATTACK---THE PEOPLE OF THE WAGON TRAIN DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE---"
WE'VE GOT 'EM! THERE WON'T BE ONE OF 'EM LEFT!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
THE BOSTON

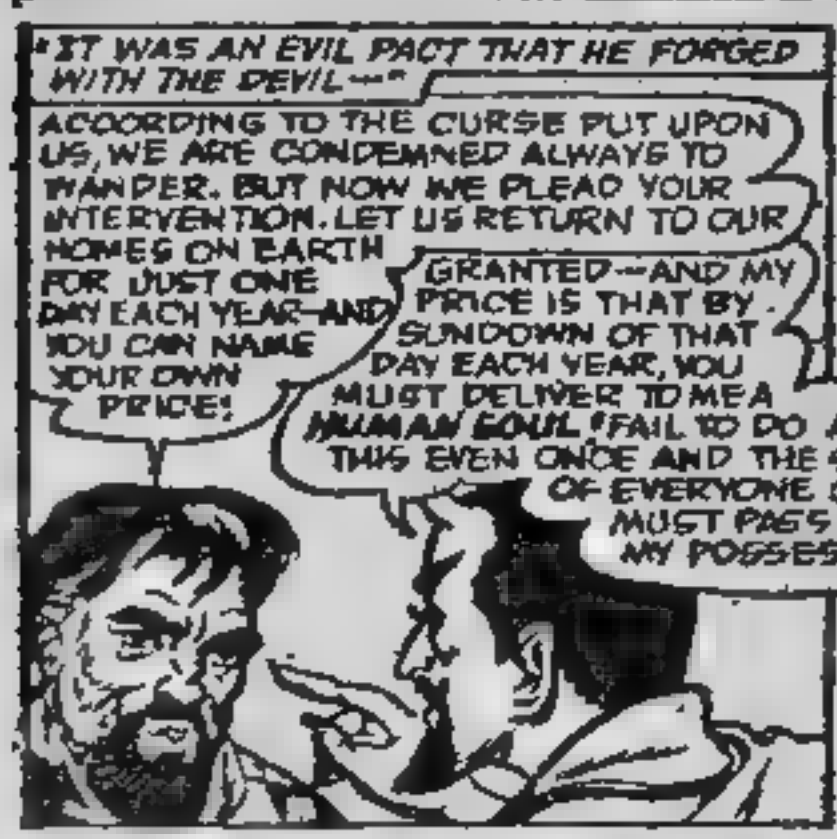

"BROTHER MORRIS WAS THE LAST TO DIE. BUT WHILE THERE WAS LIFE LEFT WITHIN HIM, HE SEARED THE TOWNSPEOPLE WITH HIS CURSE---"
LET---AN AWFUL PUNISHMENT STRIKE OUT OF THE UNKNOWN ---AND BLAST YOU FOREVER MAY--- THE PEOPLE OF THIS CURSED TOWN---WANDER RESTLESS THROUGH THE SKIES---NEVER KNOWING---THE OF DEATH---


"AND AS HE HAD CURSED US, SO IT CAME TO BE. WE WERE GHOSTS, WANDERING EVER---KNOWING NO REST---"
OH, TO RETURN TO EARTH AND SEE OUR HOMES ONCE MORE---

IT WAS YOUR FAULT, JAMES ARDEN--YOU BROUGHT US TO THIS PASS!
YOU MADE US KILL OFF THE MORRIS EXPEDITION --TURNED US INTO WANDERING GHOSTS WITHOUT A HOME!
WAIT! I'VE NEVER FAILED YOU YET--AND I WON'T NOW!

HE HAD BEEN A MAN OF POWER--AND NOW HE INVOKED THE POWER OF THE SUPERNATURAL!
SATAN, PRINCE OF DARKNESS! HEED MY CALL --APPEAR BEFORE ME!

I AM HERE, GHOST OF JAMES ARDEN. WHY HAVE YOU SUMMONED ME?


"IT WAS AN EVIL PACT THAT HE FORGED WITH THE DEVIL--"
ACCORDING TO THE CURSE PUT UPON US, WE ARE CONDEMNED ALWAYS TO WANDER. BUT NOW WE PLEAD YOUR INTERVENTION. LET US RETURN TO OUR HOMES ON EARTH FOR JUST ONE DAY EACH YEAR--AND YOU CAN NAME YOUR OWN PRICE!
GRANTED--AND MY PRICE IS THAT BY SUNDOWN OF THAT DAY EACH YEAR, YOU MUST DELIVER TO ME A HUMAN SOUL! FAIL TO DO THIS EVEN ONCE AND THE SOUL OF EVERYONE OF YOU MUST PASS INTO MY POSSESSION!

EVER SINCE THEN, ON ONE DAY EACH YEAR--THIS DAY--WE KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE ON EARTH AGAIN. AT FIRST, IT WAS VERY EASY TO GET THE SOULS REQUIRED IN PAYMENT--

"AT FIRST, WE WOULD SEIZE INDIANS--"
EEE-EEEEE!

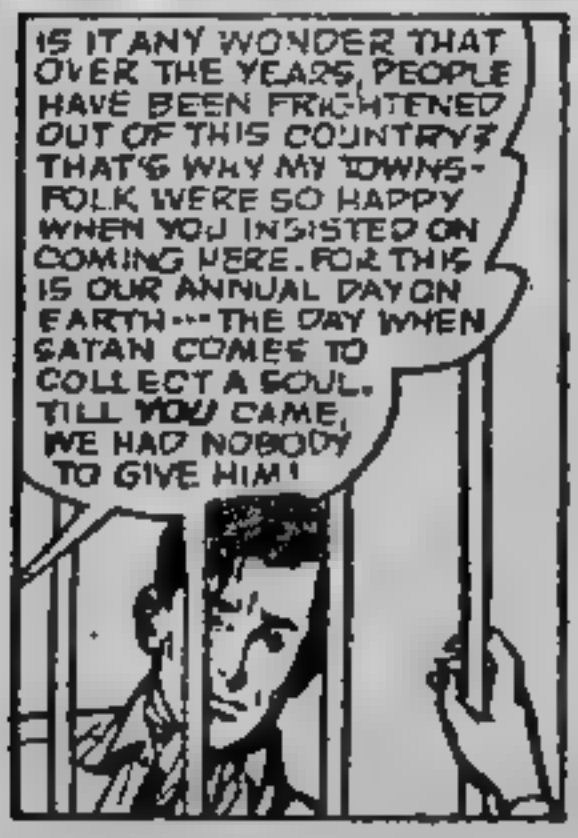
"SOON THEY FLED THE AREA IN TERROR--AND WE WERE FORCED TO LOOK FURTHER. SHEEPHERDERS IN THEIR LONELY HUTS WEREN'T SAFE FROM US--"
WHO'S THERE? I'M COMING--
KNOCK! KNOCK!

NO! N-NO!

"THERE WAS A YEAR WHEN, ON THE APPOINTED DAY, WE COULD FIND NOBODY--UNTIL A TENDERFOOT CAME TO INVESTIGATE THE GHOST TOWN OF BONANZA GULCH..."
THIS IS FASCINATING. I'LL TAKE A LOOK INTO THE OLD SALOON.

WHAT THE...!

DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
CRASH!


IS IT ANY WONDER THAT OVER THE YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FRIGHTENED OUT OF THIS COUNTRY? THAT'S WHY MY TOWNSFOLK WERE SO HAPPY WHEN YOU INSISTED ON COMING HERE. FOR THIS IS OUR ANNUAL DAY ON EARTH--THE DAY WHEN SATAN COMES TO COLLECT A SOUL. TILL YOU CAME, WE HAD NOBODY TO GIVE HIM!

THEN I GUESS --IT'S ALL UP WITH ME--
NO, NO--I CAN'T BEAR TO THINK THAT! YOU'RE THE FIRST MORTAL I'VE ENCOUNTERED IN A CENTURY--AND YOU'RE GOOD, FINE!

FOR A MOMENT, THEY STARED WORDLESSLY INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES--AND THEN--

IT'S LATE--THEY'LL BE COMING FOR YOU SOON--ONLY THEY WON'T FIND YOU!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'M GOING TO LET YOU ESCAPE!
I WON'T DO IT! UNLESS I STAY, YOUR PEOPLE WON'T HAVE THE VICTIM THEY NEED--AND SATAN WILL COLLECT ALL THEIR SOULS, INCLUDING YOURS! I WON'T GO, I TELL YOU!

THERE WAS NOTHING SHE COULD DO BUT USE HER SUPERNATURAL POWERS ON HIM...
OH-HHH!

ARE
GOODBYE, MY DARLING ...GOODBYE...
AIL

MEANWHILE—THE TOWN'S BIG CELEBRATION WAS IN PROGRESS...
A TOAST - TO ANOTHER DAY ON EARTH FOR US! AND MAY THERE BE MANY SUCH DAYS!

SUDDENLY...
I HAVE COME FOR MY PAYMENT!
CRASH!

WELL---DO YOU HAVE THE PROMISED SOUL?
YES. COME WITH ME AND I'LL DELIVER IT INTO YOUR KEEPING!

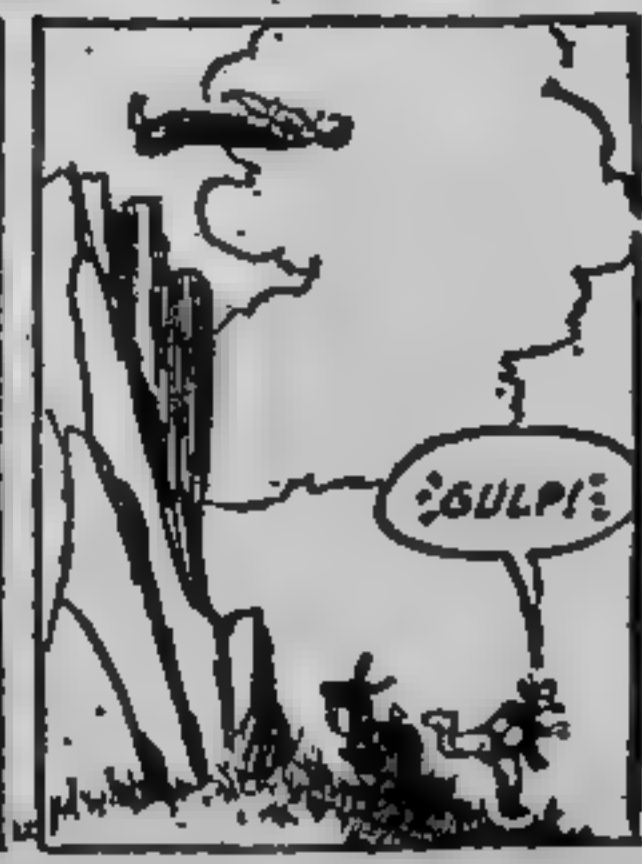
HE- HE'S GONE! THE HUMAN SOUL WE HAD FOR YOU---
AND THE SUN IS SINKING!

REMEMBER OUR BARGAIN? THE SOUL MUST BE DELIVERED BY SUNDOWN, OR ALL OF YOU BECOME MY PROPERTY. WELL--- THERE GOES THE SUN!

AND NOW---THEY PAID THE PENALTY---

I'M GLAD TO DO IT, DARLING-- AS LONG AS YOU COULD ESCAPE--

AND AT THAT MOMENT, MILES AWAY---
NOT ENOUGH GOLD IN THIS COUNTRY TO FILL A TOOTH ---WHY DO I KEEP ON LOOKIN'?


:GULP!:

HE ... IT ... IT'S COMIN' DOWN, WHATEVER IT IS!

IT'S A MAN, ALL RIGHT ... AND HE'S ALIVE!

THERE'S A ROAD A FEW MILES FROM HERE ... GOTTA GET THIS FELLA ATTENDED TO.

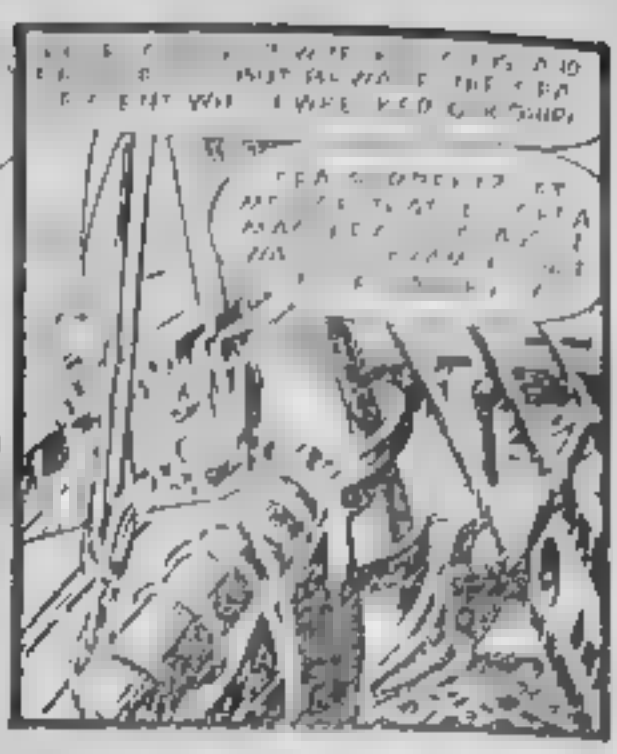
STOP! HEY, YOU ... PULL UP!

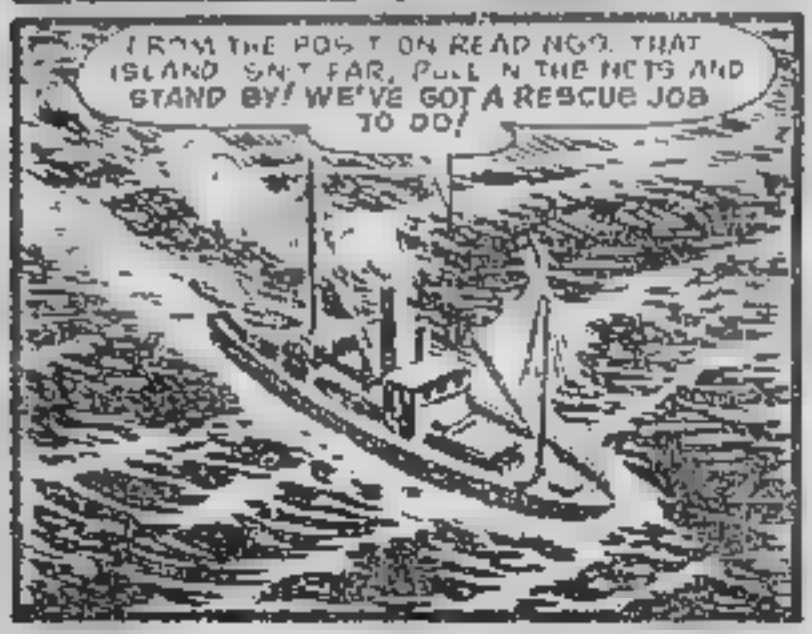
LET'S GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL. BUT HIS HEARTBEAT'S STRONG -- HE'LL PULL OUT OF IT.
NOTICE THAT ODD, BURNED ODOR ABOUT HIM? I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS.

THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT SMELL IS, BUT I DO. IT'S BRIMSTONE! HE MET THEM ... THE ONLY MAN EVER TO ESCAPE THEM!
The END!

THE LEGENDS OF MONSTER SEA SERPENTS HAVE FASCINATED BOTH LAYMAN AND SCIENTIST OF EVERY AGE! CERTAINLY THERE WERE MONSTER SEA CREATURES IN THE PRIMORDIAL ERA, BUT COULD THEIR DESCENDANTS, OR SIMILAR CREATURES HAVE SURVIVED INTO THE MODERN ERA? PROFESSOR KERRIN, DRAGGING THE PHILIPPINE WATERS, MEANT TO FIND OUT, AND WHAT HE FOUND WAS *MORE* ASTONISHING EVEN THAN THE BASIC TRUTH!

THE MONSTER IN THE MIST!





THE POWERFUL MOTORS OF THE BOAT [illegible] TOWARD THE ISLAND AND THE [illegible]

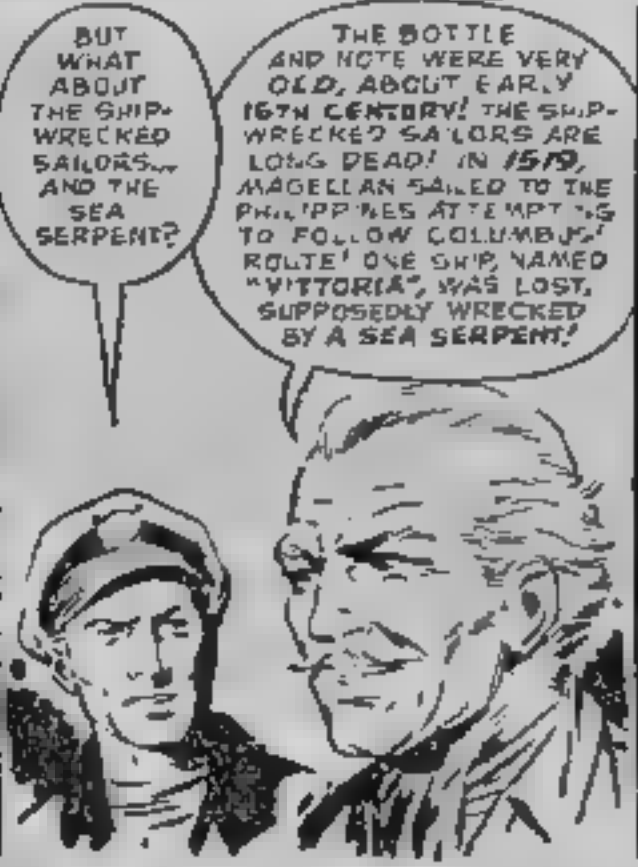
IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE, AN AWESOME THING THAT THESE MEN COULDN'T BELIEVE WAS ACTUALLY HAPPENING! YET THEY KNEW, FOR THEIR LIVES' SAKES, THAT THEY *MUST* BELIEVE!

IT'S GAINING ON US!
SUDDENLY THE TREMENDOUS NECK SHOT OUT OVER THEM FOR A MOMENT HUNG THE TREMENDOUS HEAD .

THEN THE GREAT SEA BEAST REARED HIGH IN THE WATER, HANGING OVER THEM .
IT'S GOING TO . . TO CRUSH US!

THEN SUDDENLY THE MIST WAS GONE THE MONSTER VANISHED! THE SUN SHONE AND THE SMALL, EVERYDAY SOUNDS OF SHIP AND SEA COULD BE HEARD AGAIN!
. . IT'S GONE!
WE MUST'VE BEEN DREAMING!
NO, NOT DREAMING, CAPTAIN! LOOK YONDER!

IT'S THE SAME ISLAND! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I THINK I DO! I'LL BET, TOO, THAT THE SHIP "VITTORIA" WE SAW WRECKED THERE, COULD BE FOUND BY DIVERS RIGHT WHERE WE SAW IT!


BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SHIP-WRECKED SAILORS... AND THE SEA SERPENT?
THE BOTTLE AND NOTE WERE VERY OLD, ABOUT EARLY 16TH CENTURY! THE SHIP-WRECKED SAILORS ARE LONG DEAD! IN 1519, MAGELLAN SAILED TO THE PHILIPPINES ATTEMPTING TO FOLLOW COLUMBUS' ROUTE! ONE SHIP, NAMED "VITTORIA", WAS LOST, SUPPOSEDLY WRECKED BY A SEA SERPENT!

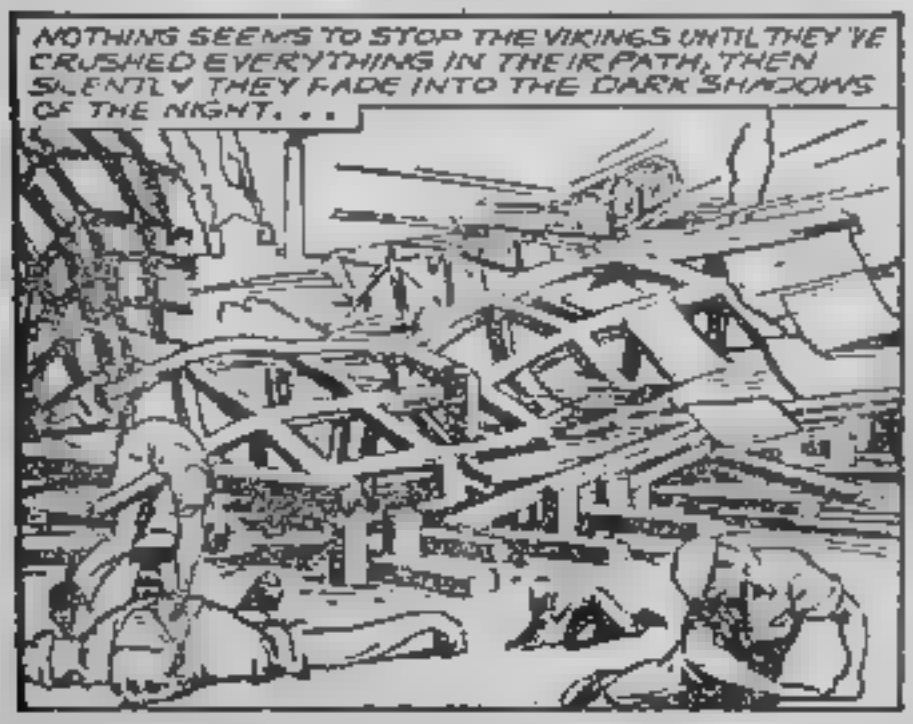
THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER! FOR A FEW MOMENTS, TIME TURNED BACKWARD AND CAUGHT US IN ITS FLOW. BACK TO 1519! NOW I KNOW THE LEGENDS OF SEA SERPENTS WERE FOUNDED IN TRUTH! AND WHO KNOWS, PERHAPS THEIR DESCENDANTS STILL LURK SOMEWHERE IN THE UNEXPLORED DEPTHS OF THE SEA!
THE END

IBIS THE INVINCIBLE

WHENCE CAME THE VIKING HORDE THAT SUDDENLY AND VICIOUSLY ATTACKED OUR VITAL SHIPYARDS ON A NORTHERN COAST OF AMERICA? ARE THEY REALLY VIKINGS OF THE PAST, THOSE STRANGE MEN WHO INVADED AMERICA A THOUSAND YEARS AGO...OR IS THIS JUST ANOTHER ILLUSION CONJURED UP IN THE WARPED MINDS OF OUR ENEMIES? AND AGAIN IBIS AND HIS MIRACULOUS WHITE MAGIC FIND THE ANSWER TO BOTH!

VIKINGS, WITH BULGING MUSCLES AND CARRYING CRUDE WEAPONS BEAR DOWN ON THEM. . .

ARE THEY REAL?? MY BULLETS DON'T SEEM TO STOP THEM?


NOTHING SEEMS TO STOP THE VIKINGS UNTIL THEY'VE CRUSHED EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH, THEN SILENTLY THEY FADE INTO THE DARK SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT. . .

BUT, NOT FAR AWAY..
LOOK TAIA! IBISTICK IS WARNING ME OF IMPENDING DANGER!
FOLLOW IT MY PRINCE!

LEAD ON, IBISTICK!

THE SINISTER FIGURE OF BUTCHER BRAING, AN ENEMY SCIENTIST, WATCHES THE RETURN OF THE VIKINGS FROM THE WINDOW OF AN OLD MANSION NEAR THE NORTHERN SHORES. . .
AH! MY VIKING WARRIORS RETURN VICTORIOUS! I MUST CHANGE QUICKLY INTO ONE OF THEIR COSTUMES AND PLAN MY NEXT MOVE WITH THEM!

WELCOME! WELCOME! WHAT SUCCESS?
GREAT SUCCESS! WE HAVE DESTROYED THE AMER CAN SAVAGES AND THEIR WHOLE VILLAGE!

BUT THEY HAVE FUNNY POP STICKS THAT SEND FORTH HOT, STINGING MISSILES. SEE, IT STUNG ME!
...A GUNSHOT WOUND! I BETTER FIX IT UP!

I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU! MORE OF YOUR BRETHREN HAVE JOINED YOU!
LOOK, MEN! OUR FRIENDS!
SKOAL!

HAVING FEASTED, THE VIKINGS LISTEN AS BUTCHER SENDS THEM FORTH ON ANOTHER ERRAND OF DESTRUCTION...
GO, BRAVE WARRIORS! KILL THE SAVAGES AND DESTROY THEIR SHIPYARDS! . AND BY THIS TIME TOMORROW I WILL HAVE MORE OF YOUR BRETHREN JOIN YOU!

WHERE DOES BUTCHER BRAINS GET THESE BIG, STRONG VIKINGS TO FIGHT FOR HIM? FROM WHERE DOES HE PRODUCE MORE VIKINGS AS THE DAYS GO BY?
GO, MY WARRIORS! KILL THE STUPID AMER CANS WHO ARE STUPID AS YOURSELVES! HA, HA! IT WAS A LUCKY DAY FOR ME WHEN I FOUND YOU!

WITH A WAR CRY ON THEIR LIPS, THE VIKINGS POUNCE ON ANOTHER SHIPYARD!
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!!!
HOWZA!
VIKINGS???? HELP!!!!

BUT, FROM IN BACK OF THE WORKERS, ONE STEPS FORWARD WHO IS NOT AFRAID.
STOP!!!!
OUT OF THE WAY, PUNY ONE BEFORE I CUT YOU IN TWAIN!

IBISTICK PRODUCE ONE WHOM THEY WILL OBEY!

IBISTICK PRODUCES THE KING OF THE VIKINGS...
OUR KING!!!
STOP!!!!
FORGIVE US, OH KING!

WHY DO YOU ATTACK THESE PEOPLE?
WE ARE KILLING THESE SAVAGES AND CLAIMING THE LAND FOR YOU, OH KING!

KNOW YOU NOT THAT WE HAVE BEEN DEAD A THOUSAND YEARS? THIS IS 1955!

DEAD FOR A THOUSAND YEARS???? BUT IT SEEMS ONLY LIKE YESTERDAY WE LANDED ON THESE SHORES!
YES. AND FEASTED ROYALLY BY ONE WHO SAID HE WAS SHIP-WRECKED HERE! IT WAS A STRANGE MAN CALLED BUTCHER BRAINS WHO TOLD US TO ATTACK THESE SAVAGES!

TAKE US TO TH S STRANGE CHIEF TA N!

THEY SOON COME WITHIN SIGHT OF THE CRUMBLING WALLS OF THE OLD MANSION. . .
IT'S HERE THAT THE BUTCHER LIVES!
IB STICK SHOW TO TAIA IN HER CRYSTAL WHERE I AM!

IN HIS LABORATORY, THE BUTCHER IS BUSILY ENGAGED. . .
HA, HA! WITH MY RAY MACHINE I WILL SOON HAVE WARM - BLOOD COURSING THROUGH THE VEINS OF ANOTHER VIKING!

NOT SO FAST, BUTCHER BRAINS!
IBIS???.. AND THE KING OF THE VIKINGS!

THE IBISTICK MUST HAVE PRODUCED THE VIKING KING! I MUST GET RID OF HIM!

THE BUTCHER SUDDENLY FLASHES THE RAY MACHINE ON THE IBISTICK. . .
OUR K NG HAS DISAPPEARED!!!
HE TRICKED US!
YES! I TOLD YOU THESE AMERICAN SAVAGES ARE TRICKY!

GRAB HIM!

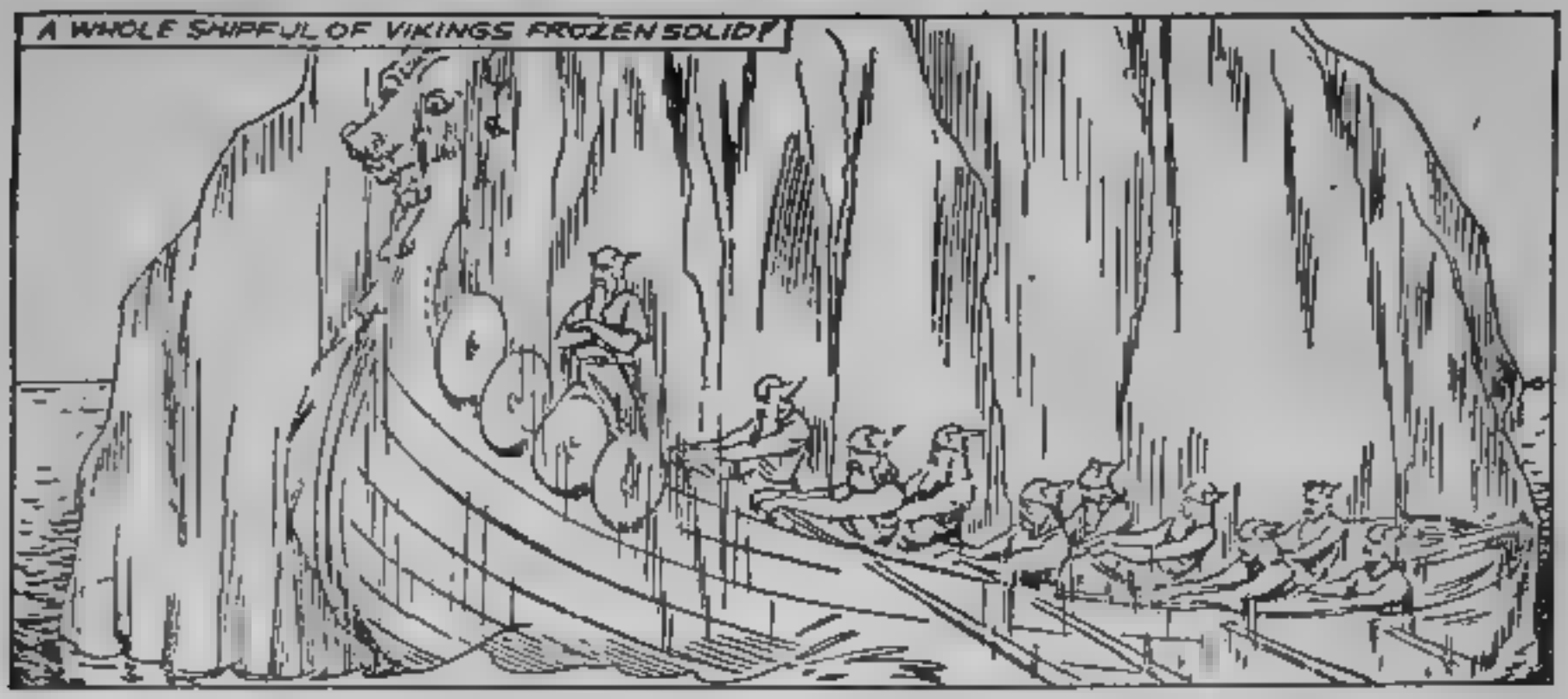
WITHOUT THE IBISTICK, IBIS IS SOON OVERPOWERED BY THE MIGHTY VIKING WARRIORS . . .
TIE HIM UP MY MIGHTY MEN!

NOW THAT WE ARE ALONE AND YOU ARE HELPLESS, I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU MY SECRET, IBIS!
I SAW HOW YOU REVIVED THEM! BUT WHERE DO YOU GET THEM FROM?

THE BUTCHER LEADS IBIS TO A NEARBY HARBOR. . .
THAT ICEBERG BROKE LOOSE FROM A NORTHERN GLACIER AND FLOATED INTO THIS HARBOR! COME, WE WILL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

THE BUTCHER LEADS IBIS BETWEEN HUGE WALLS OF ICE WHICH TOOK HUNDREDS OF YEARS TO FORM. . .
FROM THE MIDDLE OF THIS ICEBERG I GET MY MATERIAL TO DESTROY AMERICA! THEY HAVE BEEN FROZEN IN THE ICE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS! AND MY RAY MACHINE WARMS THEM TO LIFE!!! THEY DIED IN PERFECT HEALTH AND HAVE STAYED PRESERVED. I MERELY THAW THEM OUT!

I MUST STOP THIS FIEND'S WORK!


A WHOLE SHIPFUL OF VIKINGS FROZEN SOLID!

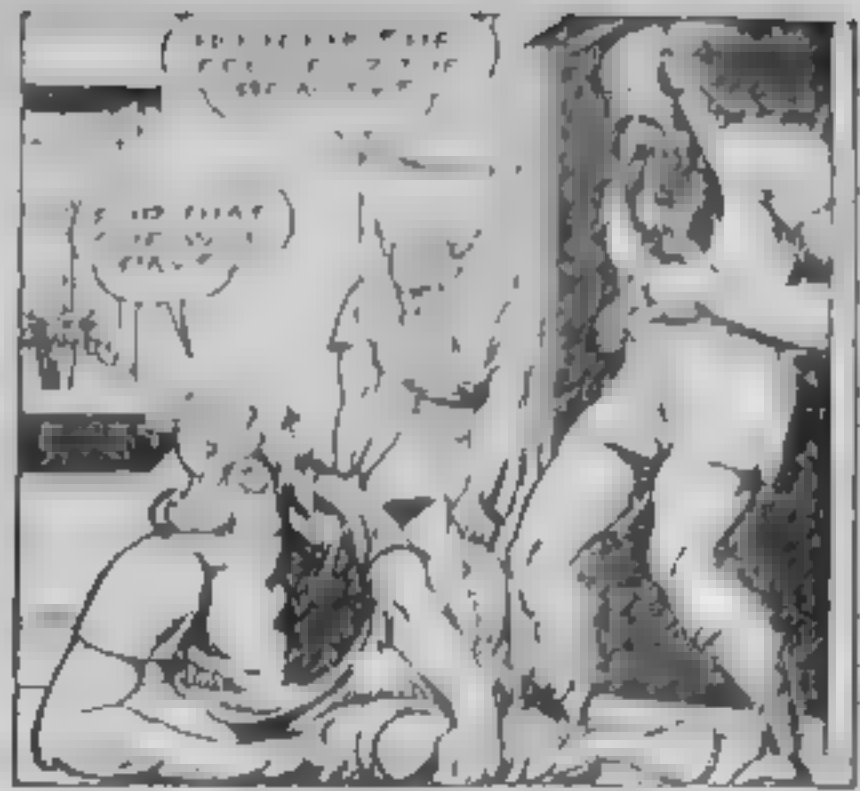
SUDDENLY, THE FIENDISH BUTCHER SHOVES IBIS INTO A NICHE FROM WHERE HE HAD TAKEN ONE OF THE VIKINGS.
SOON YOU WILL BE FROZEN STIFF, IBIS! HA HA! NO MORE WILL YOU INTERFERE IN MY PLANS OF DESTROYING AMERICA!

TAIA HAVING SEEN IN HER CRYSTAL WHERE IBIS WAS, GOES TO THE OLD MANSION.
I HAVE A FEELING MY PRINCE IS IN NEED OF ME!

WHAT A DISMAL LOOKING PLACE! WHAT COULD HAVE BROUGHT MY PRINCE HERE? WHA ???
A BEAUTY!!!!

COME TO ME MY BEAUTIFUL ONE!!!
!!EEKKK!!!

OOOFF

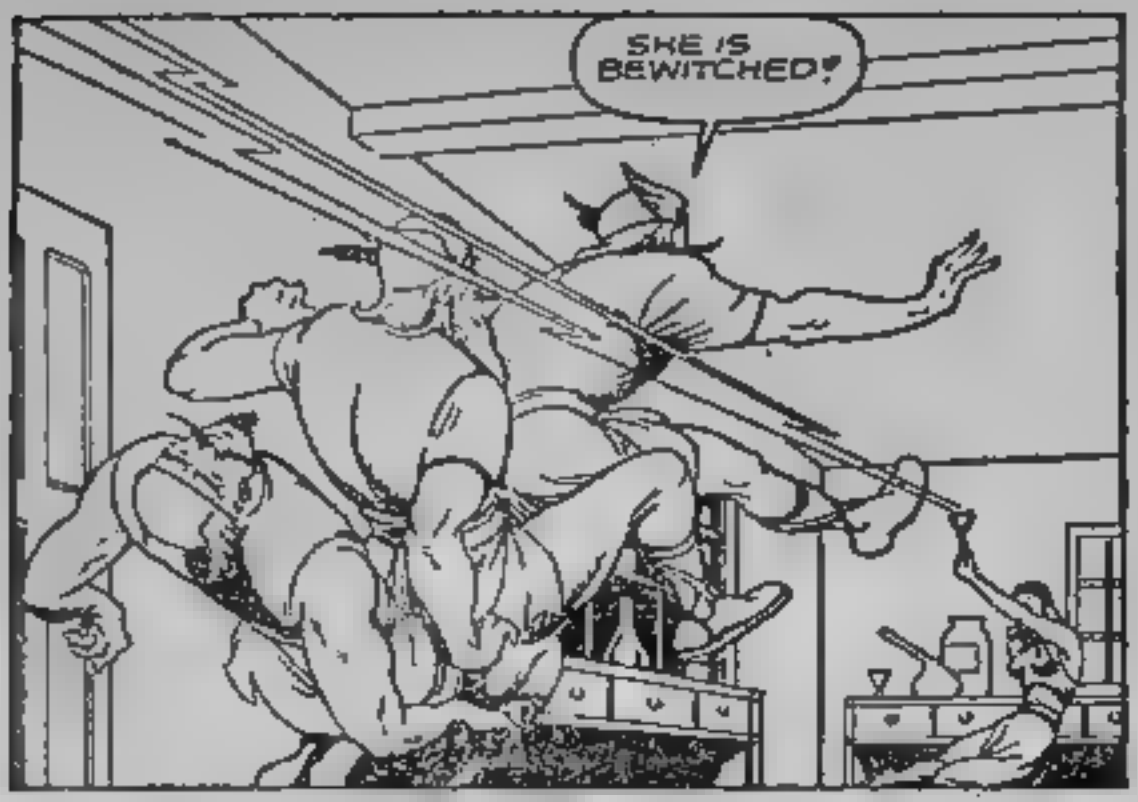


TAIA'S CRIES GO UNHEARD, FOR IBIS IS FREEZING IN HIS ICY TOMB!
PRINCE IBIS! HELP! WHERE ARE YOU?

TAIA STUMBLES INTO THE LABORATORY!
HA HA! NOW WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

TAIA'S FINGERS SUDDENLY CLOSE ABOUT A FAMILIAR OBJECT, THE IBISTICK! . . .
THE IBISTICK!!
THIS!

IBISTICK! HURL THIS VIKING AGAINST THE REST!


SHE IS BEWITCHED!

TAKE ME TO MY PRINCE, IBISTICK!

FASTER, IBISTICK! MY PRINCE IS IN TROUBLE!

THAT SHOULD HOLD YOU FOREVER, IBIS! AND NOW TO DESTROY...
IBISTICK! IBISTICK! MAKE THE BUTCHER CHANGE PLACES WITH IBIS!

YOU HAVE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME, MY PRINCESS! COME WE MUST STOP THE VIKINGS!
HERE IS YOUR IBISTICK, MY PRINCE!

LOOK, IBIS! THE VIKINGS ARE PREPARING TO DESTROY ANOTHER SHIPYARD. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO WITH THEM, TAIA!

STOP VIK NGS! YOU BELONG NOT TO THIS WORLD!
IBIS STICK! SEND THESE VIKINGS BACK FROM WHERE THEY CAME! SEAL THEM UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ICEBERG!

IT WAS BEST THAT WAY, MY PRINCE! ■T DID WE NOT LEAVE THE BUTCHER SEALED UP IN HIS ICY TOMB?
YES, TAIA! HE IS ANOTHER THAT SHOULD NOT BELONG ON THIS WORLD!

IB STICK! SEND THIS ICEBERG BACK TO THE GLACIER IT BROKE AWAY FROM IN THE NORTHERN WASTES!

SO IBIS PUTS AN END TO THE VIKING HORDE THAT LIVED A THOUSAND YEARS AGO. . .
THAT PUTS AN END TO ANOTHER SABOTAGE PLAN, TAIA!
YES, MY PRINCE! YOU ARE WONDERFUL!

THE PRISONER!

PLEASE, SOMEBODY... *PLEASE FIND THE LAMP!* RUB IT AND SET ME FREE AND I WILL GRANT ALL YOUR WISHES WHATEVER THEY BE!

G700

AFTER ALADDIN MY KIND MASTER PASSED AWAY THE LAMP WAS STOLEN BY THE VILE

AND IT WAS BURIED IN THE DESERT SANDS BY THEM

BUT THEY WERE CAPTURED AND TAKEN AWAY.

THE THIEVES NEVER RETURNED AND I'VE BEEN A PRISONER IN THE LAMP, BURIED IN THE DESERT EVER SINCE.

YES YES THE DIGGING IS GETTING LOUDER..

WHOEVER IT IS HE IS COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER..

THE SCOOP SCRAPES ME TO DEATH! DON'T STOP DIGGING! PLEASE DON'T!

AHH! HIS SHOVEL HAS STRUCK THE LAMP SOON I WILL BE FREE!

OF COURSE IT IS POSSIBLE! DO NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME! RUB THE SIDES OF THE LAMP AND SET ME FREE!

RUB HARDER! IT HAS BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE THE LAMP HAS BEEN RUBBED! DO NOT GET DISCOURAGED! KEEP RUBBING!

THE LAMP'S SIDES RUB AGAINST THE ROUGH SANDS AS IT SLIDES ACROSS THE DESERT'S SURFACE, AND THAT IS JUST THE HARD RUB IT NEEDED!

HE LAUGHS AS I RAISE MY ARMS TO WORK MY GREAT POWERS...

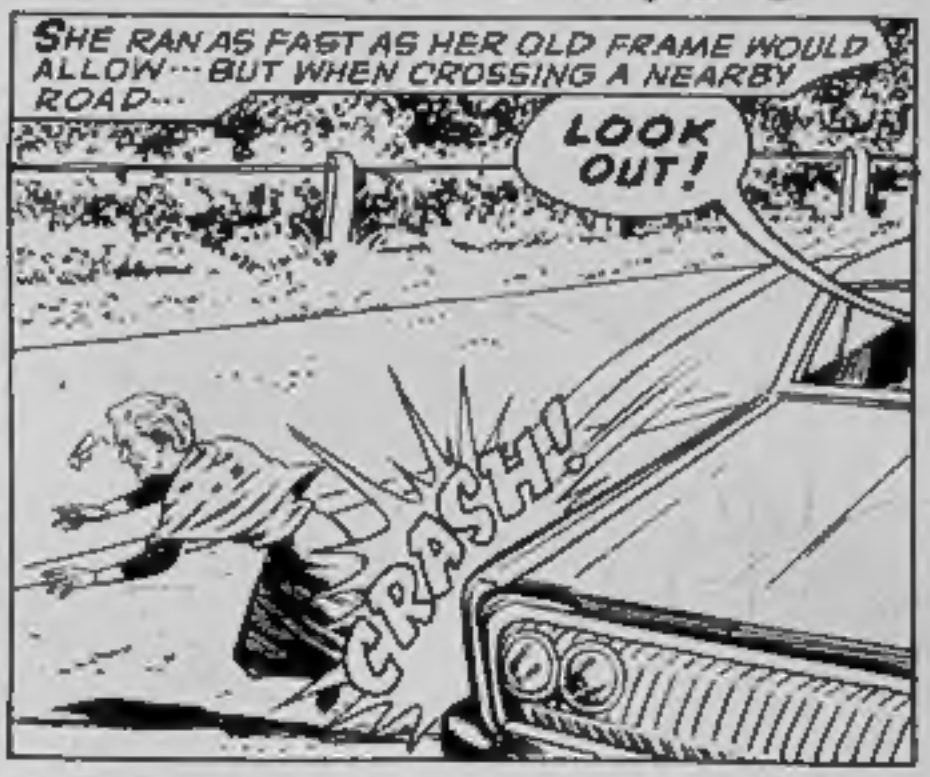
BILLOWS OF SMOKE BOIL AROUND ME AND HE LAUGHS IN TRIUMPH...

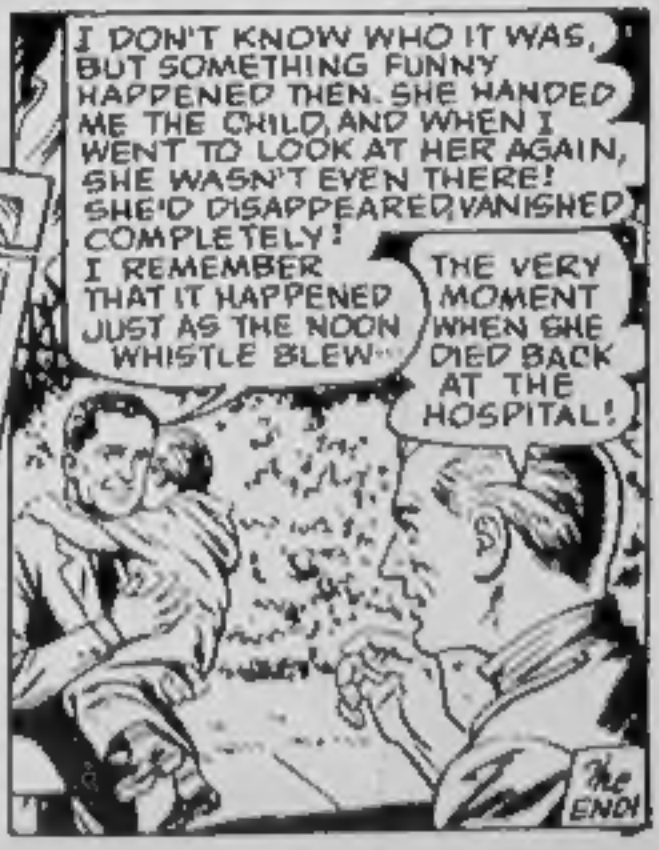
THEN THE SMOKE BEGINS TO CLEAR AND STILL HE LAUGHS AS HE SEARCHES EAGERLY FOR HIS WEAPONS AND GREAT ARMIES...

BUT HE SEES NOTHING... NOT EVEN ME! AND HIS LAUGHTER CEASES...

YES... I AM BACK INSIDE ALADDIN'S LAMP FOR ALL ETERNITY! BECAUSE I WOULD RATHER BE A **PRISONER** IN **HERE**, THAN LIVE AS A **SLAVE** IN A WORLD RULED BY MEN LIKE THAT COMMUNIST!

SAVED by a SPIRIT





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OUT OF THIS WORLD

★

WEIRD PLANETS

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW